

BUSINESS/B1

RP commercial banks' bad loans ratio falls to 8-year low

METRO/A19

German who defrauded Europeans of over P2-3 million arrested in Cavite

PMA 'goat' pays ultimate price of justice in Moroland

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE "GOAT" OF THE CLASS OF 1998 KNEW EXACTLY what he would do when he got out of the Philippine Military Academy.

It didn't matter that Paulman Sadat Tamano landed at the bottom of the list of PMA graduates that had earned him the class label.

PMA/A4

METRO/A20

Mon Tulfo says court decision illogical convicting (for rape), sentencing (life) quadriplegic

NEWS/A18

'Da Vinci' murder mystery box-office record on 1st day

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MINING/A6

Mining probe body urges Lafayette license revoked

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Christine Gaylcan

SAYING IT WANTED TO SEND A STRONG MESSAGE to investors that the Philippines was "not a nation of prostitutes," a Malacañang-formed commission yesterday urged the government to review a mining law that allows foreigners 100 percent ownership of local mines, and to stop the

Garduce makes it triple treat for RP

First Everest conqueror Sir Hillary hails 3 Filipinos



THE DREAM COMES TRUE for Romi Garduce (second from right, flanked by his Sherpa guides) at 11:20 a.m. Nepal time (1:20 p.m. RP time), May 19. With a record unmatched by any Filipino mountaineer, Garduce, according to his colleagues in the UP Mountaineers, played it cool, by not turning the Everest climb into a race to the top but keeping safety top of mind.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GMA 7 NEWS

By Alcuin Papa

AND ROMI GARDUCE makes three.

The Philippines' most accomplished mountaineer has achieved his dream and added Mt. Everest to his cap of accomplishments, capping a banner week for Filipino climbers.

New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary, who first reached the peak of Everest with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953, congratulated all three Filipinos for their feat.

"I have nothing but the greatest respect for the [Filipino] expedition, for the determination and the will to battle on and go to the summit," Hillary, now 87, said in an interview yesterday with GMA 7.

"My heartiest congratulations to Leo, Romi and Erwin for their success in getting to the top. Very good luck to them. They must have been strong and determined," he said.

Garduce, 37, made it to the top of the world's highest mountain at 11:20 a.m. Nepal time (1:20 p.m. Philippine time) yesterday with the aid of oxygen despite deteriorating weather on Everest's south side.

He had made the trek back to Camp 4 (8,000 meters or 26,000 feet) as of press time. Depending on the weather, he was expected to stay there overnight or head to Camp 3.

He will spend a day at Camp 2 today before returning to Everest's Base Camp (5,400 meters or 17,700 feet) on Sunday.

As he descended from the summit, Garduce sent out a strong message to other mountaineers wanting to scale the Everest: It is not an impossible dream.

GARDUCE has climbed 15 other mountains around the world including Cho-Oyu (26,906 feet) in the Nepal-Tibet border in September.

Speaking in a live interview over GMA network's "24 Oras" evening newscast, he said: "In behalf of the Pinoy summiteers Leo (Oracion) and Pastor (Emata), we offer our success to the Filipino people as a symbol that the impossible dream is possible."

Garduce said the summit was only about six square meters in area but was sloping.

"There weren't much people up there because of the bad weather so there was space," he said, referring to other climbers who reached the summit about the same time he did.

Garduce said he was able to plant the Philippine flag atop Everest but had to pull it out soon after because leaving flags there was not allowed.

He said he had little time for picture taking, and had to take turns with seven other climbers so that he could have his picture taken.

GARDUCE/A8



From 'Ebem' to 'Aba,' primer for whistle-blowers

By Volt Contreras and Armand N. Nocum

BEFORE YOU WRITE THAT EXPOSÉ on your favorite corrupt "tong-gressman," get some insurance.

The war on graft and corruption now comes with a suggested checklist for citizens who intend to launch their own battles, according to an upcoming book called "Ahal A Whistleblower and Tipster's Primer."

To encourage more whistleblowers to come forward and make them feel they are not alone, "Ahal" a Jesuit-backed publication, offers tips on how these brave individuals can prepare their exposés, find the right allies, and face the expected risks.

A preview of the book was presented yesterday at a forum-workshop.

FROM/A4

lines. We are lucky the mountain accepted us," Oracion told ABS-CBN last night in Filipino.

Oracion reached the summit on Wednesday afternoon, the first Filipino to wave the Philippine flag on top of the world.

He climbed for some 15 hours from Camp 4 (8,000 meters) before reaching the summit.

Oracion encountered "traffic" on the way to the peak because he was climbing

with a big number of mountaineers. His group was the first to make it to the summit in this climbing season.

"There was a delay because we had to wait for the Sherpas to fix the lines. I was the last person to reach the summit and the last one to leave," he said.

The 8,000-meter-high point is considered the Death Zone, where lack of oxygen combined with severe exhaustion begins to take a toll on a climber's body.

WE WERE/A1

WE

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/19/06

Second FRONT PAGE

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SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

'Jueteng' back; STL blamed

PNP chief confirms resurgence of illegal numbers game

By Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—GOOD-BYE, jueteng; hello, jueteng.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police, has confirmed the resurgence of jueteng operations in "various places in Luzon," and blames the return of illegal gambling on the operations of the Small Town Lottery (STL) which started in March.

"For [several] months, [there were] no operations of jueteng, perhaps [the game] came back because of the operations of STL," Lomibao told reporters after yesterday's groundbreaking rites of the Pampanga police's camp at the provincial capitol.

STL, he said, was being used as a front for jueteng. The two operations share some similarities.

But in some raids, suspected jueteng activities turned out to be legitimate STL operations, Lomibao said. There was confusion because STL license-holders had hired former jueteng collectors.

Lomibao did not describe the extent of jueteng operations. Neither did he name the areas where the illegal numbers game had returned.

According to the latest reports from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, STL is run in Angeles City by the Lake Tahoe Gaming Corp., in Bataan by Sunset Bay Research and Marketing Group, in Bulacan by Diamond Gaming and Research Center Corp., in Quezon by Pirouette Corp., in Occidental Mindoro by Royal Viva Research, and in Laguna by Ramloid Corp.

STL operations run by the Bench-

mark Acquisition International Corp. in Quezon City have been suspended. Sun Cove Corp. and Novo Mega Gaming Corp. have not started their test runs in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija, respectively.

Lomibao also did not suggest the need to stop STL.

The PNP stands to get 5 percent from the 30 percent charity fund of STL. It was not clear if the amount was based on a per area income or on the total charity fund contributed by all license holders.

Jueteng survey

In Pangasinan, a survey conducted by the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Sugal in areas covered by the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese showed there was no jueteng collection or draws in Dagupan City, but the game was slowly returning in 14 towns of the archdiocese.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, national chair of the Krusada, said in the 381 villages surveyed, jueteng was found to be "rampant" in 130 villages, "moderate" in 173, "negligible" in 72 and "none at all" in six villages.

Cruz said the surveyed villages represented about 80 percent of



LOMIBAO

PADACA

the total number of villages (2,004) in 14 towns. There were 1,708 respondents in the survey conducted in the first and second week of May.

Cruz said jueteng in Pangasinan is still "low-key and in the process of re-establishing its roots."

He gave a copy of the survey to Supt. Noli Taliño, deputy provincial police director for operations, who admitted that some "guerrilla" operators were insistent on reactivating jueteng in some towns.

Help from GMA

Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca yesterday said she had lost faith in the PNP and sought help from President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the revived jueteng operations in her province.

"Every time we want jueteng stopped, [do] we have to go to Malacañang? It's disgusting," she said in Filiphino. Padaca met with the President on

Thursday. She said she was getting "frustrated" and had stopped communicating with Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, who supposedly had not acted on her demand to relieve Senior Supt. Oscar Fiesta of his position as acting Isabela police director.

Soriano said he was "observing due process" before acting on Padaca's request.

No jueteng in Isabela

Padaca said she had asked Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy to personally relay her request to Ms Arroyo for the removal of Fiesta and the reinstatement of Senior Supt. Percival Barba.

Padaca said she believed that the assignment of Fiesta, formerly Soriano's chief of staff, to Isabela was purposely made to pave the way for the resurgence of jueteng, Valencia said. With Luige A. del Puerto and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Thursday.

"[Ms Arroyo] said she would direct [Interior] Secretary [Ronaldo] Puno to act on this," Padaca said, quoting Uy.

"I only want one thing—that jueteng not be allowed to return in Isabela. We have lived peacefully for one year without this," she added.

Jueteng posing as STL

Meanwhile, police have assured STL operators of "unhampered" runs after the PCSO accused some local policemen of harassment.

PCSO is bankrolling the STL test runs in Luzon.

A police spokesperson said STL is "unhampered in several test areas in Luzon."

But Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the police had received reports that gambling operators were taking advantage of the similarities between STL and jueteng to reintroduce the illegal numbers game.

Pagdilao also raised the possibility that some STL franchise holders may "actually be engaged in jueteng activities and were only using STL as a convenient cover."

This week, PCSO chair Sergio Valencia said his office had received reports that STL operators were being harassed by police officers to discourage legal competition with the illegal numbers game.

"Initial reports submitted to our police identify several policemen in partnership with local gambling lords as those responsible for the resurgence of jueteng," Valencia said. With Luige A. del Puerto and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Plinky's ex-lover faces charges

By Armand N. Nocum

A STATE PROSECUTOR YES-
TERDAY recommended the fil-
ing of criminal charges
against the former live-in
partner of actress and fitness
expert Plinky Recto for al-
leged physical abuse.

In an 8-page resolution, State Prosecutor Hazel Dece-
na-Valdez said there was prob-
able cause to charge Mag-
daleno M. Pena, the father of
Recto's 2-year-old son, with
domestic abuse for violating the
"Anti-Violence Against
Women and Their Children
Act" or Republic Act 9262.

"After a careful and judicious
evaluation of the evidence at
hand, the undersigned find suf-
ficient grounds to engender a
well-founded belief that an of-
fense of violation of (RA No.
9262) has been committed and
that respondent is probably
guilty thereof and should be
held for trial," Valdez said in the
resolution.

The DOJ prosecutor gave
credence to the "evident and undisputed" fact that both the
complainant and the respon-
dent were in a "dating relation-
ship" when the June 29, 2005
incident happened; and that
complainant sustained injuries
during the incident.

Pena earlier claimed that
Recto sustained her injuries in
the course of a struggle to
assault him, while he exerted
efforts to mollify her. He as-
serted that complainant was
the attacker and not himself.

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6. Kailangan ding ibabaw ang registration fee sa pagkakaisang
isipng tawag na 5-minute.



SMART

PMA 'goat' pays ultimate price of justice in Moroland

From page A1

This had actually given him a chance to say his piece to a rousing applause on graduation day, which coincided with the centennial celebration of the Philippine Revolution.

"It would be fitting for the Filipino people to look back at their past and discover the things for them to face the future," said the scion of a politically influential Maranao family.

Family and friends say his vision was to bring peace to Mindanao with his hometown of Marawi at the edge of the lovely

Lake Lanao a beacon of light in the troubled region.

At 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2005, a fusillade from M16 Armales rifles and cal. 45 pistols snuffed out Tamano's dream.

Gunmen aboard a Nissan Frontier pickup had overtaken Tamano's Toyota Hilux near the SM mall in Cagayan de Oro City and opened fire, sending his vehicle crashing onto a mahogany tree beside a concrete gutter.

Tamano, a 29-year-old first lieutenant in the Army intelligence, and his aide, Pfc. Nabral L. Sara, sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died on the spot.

The family of Tamano later brought double murder charges before the City Prosecutor of Cagayan de Oro against Aminolah Mangurun, a former mayor of Kapai, a remote municipality in the hinterlands of Lanao del Sur rich in timber.

Five others were named in the charge sheet. Last month, the prosecutor began a preliminary investigation of the case.

Fit of jealousy?

The complaint says Mangurun, in a fit of jealousy had Tamano murdered, suspecting he had an affair with his wife Rachmah, the incumbent Kapai mayor. She was a child-

hood friend of the Tamano children. Mangurun denies the allegation as "mere fabrications." He likewise denies he owned the pickup truck the gunmen used in the assault on Tamano.

Shahlimar Tamano, brother of the slain officer, told the inquirer that Mangurun wanted to provoke a "rido"—a bloody ritual of vengeance exacted for perceived insult or hurt.

Without outside intervention, such family conflicts—in a region torn by revolts, communal violence and tribal animosities—could rage for generations.

Tamano came from a conservative Muslim family that has stood for peace and service to government.

His father was an education secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Shahlimar is a director in the Department of Tourism.

He was named after assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—a man known as a peacemaker, who shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin for their efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

His family could not be goaded to exact blood for blood, says a PMA classmate who requested that his name not be used because of the sensitive position he occupied in the military.

more for the people of Lanao."

The high cost of justice has perpetrated a vicious cycle of violence and lawlessness in Mindanao, he laments. It is a losing battle particularly in the Tamano home province of Lanao del Sur.

In Marawi, there's only limited jobs available in government offices and the Mindanao State University. Young men gravitate around politicians who act pretty much like warlords.

Slights are settled out of courts, in an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth mode.

A strapping bachelor, Tamano had served as an aide to a defense undersecretary upon his graduation from the academy.

He later went to intelligence school at Camp Aguinaldo before going on combat missions against insurgents in Negros and Mindanao.

He received numerous awards for outstanding service, in demanding rebel strongholds and busting a huge drug network that operated out of Mindanao.

In confronting Moro insurgents, "there's a hesitation on his part, but he was determined to make a difference," said his PMA classmate.

"That was his style. I lead my men to war. I am a Muslim fighting against a Muslim, but I am doing this for the good of the country," he said.

The "goat" of PMA was far from reaching his vision but his family is seeing to it that justice will be served in the way that he has conceived it.



TAMANO: Vision of peace in his native troubled land.

"Sadat was made to join the military not because we want war but because we want peace. Our father had announced that to everyone," said Shahlimar.

And so, the family has decided to go through normal judicial channels in seeking justice for Tamano to set an example, in spite of provocations.

Shahlimar referred to the recent strafing of an uncle's house in Tugaya town in Lanao del Sur.

"This is part of a continuing struggle to show the Maranaos that the system works," said Shahlimar.

High cost of justice

But going through that judicial process is proving costly and tedious, said Shahlimar. "We are not a poor family, but we are having a hard time financially. What

From 'Ehem' . . .

From page A1

rest of Luzon, the Visayas, Mindanao from October to December 2005.

The sessions drew "insights, suggestions, concerns" from a total of 263 respondents and participants, a third of whom have had actual experience as whistle-blowers in government or the private sector, while the rest were involved in anti-graft advocacies.

Would-be crusaders, according to "Ahal" should take the following steps before rushing in:

- Secure original or certified true copies of documents; include pictures, maps, news clippings, if necessary. Reproduce them and give copies to trusted friends and family members.
- Be ready with dossiers or curriculum vitae of the people involved.

Start keeping a journal or diary for the names, dates and other details of the malpractice being observed.

Have a security plan; this may involve finding a safe house or an alternative address especially for the whistle-blower's loved ones.

Change your routine and travel routes as a counter-surveillance measure.

Report to the police, lawyers, priests, or friends any threats received; have it "blotted" if necessary.

Prepare financial contingency for eventual legal cases.

Approach sources of free legal aid; link up with other whistle-blowers; connect with credible, responsible media entities.

Secure personal insurance/eternal life plan.

Focus groups

The last item drew chuckles from the audience yesterday at the otherwise serious forum-workshop titled "Whistle-blowing: Awareness, Attitudes, and Structures" held at the AIM.

The project mainly saw the conduct of several FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) on fighting graft, results of which would be compiled in the "Ahal Primer" set for release in July, Amorado told the inquirer.

"While the primer cannot guarantee to make whistle-blowing easy, it hopes to open avenues and create opportunities that whistle-blowers can take stock of," Amorado said in his presentation which formed the opening segments of the workshop organized by AIM's Hills Governance Center.

Specific guidebook

"Ahal" could be considered a follow-up to a similar publication produced under the project in 2003, which also came with a catchy title, "Ehem!" Amorado explained.

While "Ehem" was a manual on how to become sensitive and call attention to wrongdoing in government, "Ahal" would be a proactive and specific guidebook on how to elevate complaints to the proper authorities, Amorado said.

Up to 20 "Ahal" FGDs were conducted in Metro Manila, the

last item drew chuckles from the audience yesterday at the otherwise serious forum-workshop titled "Whistle-blowing: Awareness, Attitudes, and Structures" held at the AIM.

People could compare their congressman's net worth as reported in the papers and their businesses and properties in their congressional districts, Sales noted, adding that testimonial or documentary evidence could be submitted.

Although the statements of assets and liabilities (SALs) are not filed in their office, BIR officials said what was relevant was how members of Congress obtained their income and if they were paying taxes for it.

"Their assets should be supported by tax payments," said Arnel Guballa, head of the BIR's National Investigation Division.

"The issue here is whether or not the SALs are validated by tax payments."

If people feel their congressmen or senators had under-declared their assets and income, as shown in their SALs, then they could submit "contrary evidence," Guballa said.

A number of congressmen had declared substantially low net worth, which many people find unbelievable.

"Let's not just talk and complain; let's help the BIR gather evidence so we can pursue our case against these erring congressmen," Sales added.

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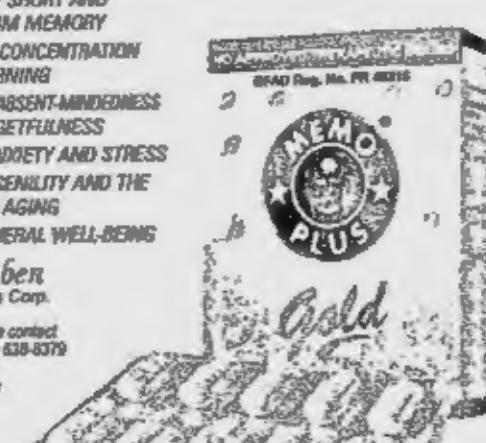
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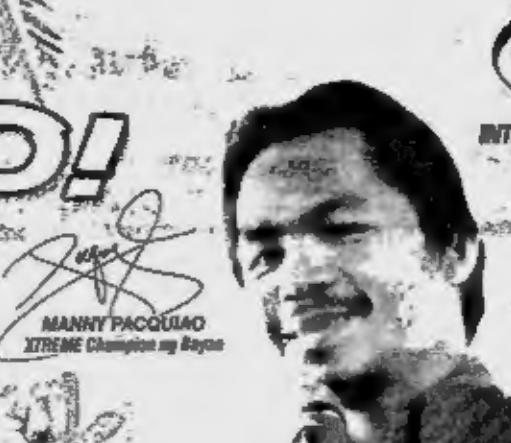
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Cops confirm abduction of Bayan member

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI POLICE YESTERDAY confirmed the abduction of a member of the party-list group Bayan Muna who was reported missing Thursday morning.

Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio, Makati police chief, yesterday said that Rolando Ralla Porter, a known veteran of the First Quarter Storm, was indeed abducted around noon in Makati City on May 16.

"We have already confirmed it. The relatives do not know what happened. But we already have witnesses who saw what happened, and our operatives are still out getting statements," Valerio told the INQUIRER.

The abduction was not reported to the police station and became only known when Bayan Muna broke the news of Porter's disappearance on Thursday morning.

Bayan Muna said that based on an eyewitness' account three men forced Porter into a waiting L300 van with license plate No. WAA-201 as he was buying prepaid "load" for his mobile phone at a sari-sari store at the corner San Rafael and Sacramento streets in Barangay Olympia, a short walk away from his house.

The witness had told Porter's half brother, Mario Bravo, that the men were in plain clothes and identified themselves as police officers.

Investigators, however, have yet to get leads on Porter's location, as well as the identity of his captors.

Valerio said the top priority for the police right now was to look for the missing activist who was the latest to be added to the growing list of militants who have either been abducted or killed.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has directed the police to get to the bottom of Porter's abduction, saying residents were alarmed by the incident and the shooting of his political ally.

On March 29, Edilmar Pancipane, a former barangay council member who was known to be an ally of the mayor, was shot by unidentified gunmen along H. Santos Street in Barangay Tejeros.

"They are alarmed because these incidents, which had been previously reported in the provinces, are not occurring in Makati," said Binay in a statement, referring to the previous cases of abduction or deaths of activists and known oppositionists outside Metro Manila.

Legislated Cha-cha illegal, says 'Sigaw' leader

By Norman Bordadora

THE LEADER OF THE COALITION PUSHING for a people's initiative for Charter change yesterday said the Senate's preferred mode of constitutional change was unconstitutional.

Lawyer Raul Lambino, head of the multi-sectoral coalition Sigaw ng Bayan, said that with the way things are going for Charter change in Congress, the most reliable mode for constitutional reforms would have to be his group's initiative campaign.

Lambino said that the Senate's prefer-

ence for constitutional amendments by way of a resolution approved by both houses of Congress is not according to the 1987 Constitution and raises doubts on whether or not the Senate is already prepared to tackle Charter change.

"The proposal after a caucus of the Senate panel on constitutional amendments is the lowest form of double-dealing, which reveals the true nature of the Senate," Lambino said in a statement.

Lambino said the Article 6 of the Constitution—the one that defines Congress' legislative powers—does not cover con-

stitutional amendments, which is a task not bound by the ordinary rules and procedures of legislating laws.

He said the only way Congress can propose amendments is by convening itself into a constituent body as stated in Article 17 of the Constitution.

"Because of this duplicitous behavior by our honorable senators, the people's initiative remains the most feasible, most democratic option to amend the 1987 Charter and replace our bicameral presidential system with a unicameral parliamentary government," Lambino said.

The people's initiative being pushed for by Lambino, however, also faces legal obstacles being cited by anti-Charter change groups. The country's law on initiative has been declared insufficient by the Supreme Court in 1998.

Sigaw ng Bayan has reported the verification of the almost nine million signatures already gathered in the people's initiative signature campaign.

Lambino said that as of last Wednesday, local election officials have already verified the voters' signatures in 192 of the country's 213 congressional districts.

Woman is 10th ...

From page A1

"The idealistic young officers should live up to their avowed duty as defenders of the people and take the necessary steps to gain a heroic image for their profession," Nemenzo said in a statement.

He said the government's claim that the killings were a result of internal purges in leftist organizations was mere propaganda.

Time and trust

In an interview yesterday at the Pampanga capitol, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao called on militant groups to give the PNP's Task Force Usig time and trust to do its work.

The task force was formed to look into the wave of political killings.

"Let us give it time to show if it is credible enough in the eyes of the public, because investigation boils down to evidence and witnesses," Lomibao said.

"If there is no evidence or witness, investigation cannot proceed. So half of the solution rests on civilians," he said.

Lomibao said the impatience and distrust of militant groups were understandable.

"[But] if they believe in the democratic system, which means due process, they should give the task force time to do its job. In the final analysis, if they are not satisfied, they can try other means," he said.

Little progress

In Manila, PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. said Task Force Usig was making little progress in getting the cooperation of militant groups whose key leaders had been targeted for assassination.

"There are some groups that have

manifested their support, and [other] groups that continue to be doubtful and quizzical about [its] objectives," he said when asked how far his task force had gone in soliciting the help of leftist groups.

Razon said coordination between the PNP and the sectoral groups was being established at the regional and national levels, but that there had been no word from the ground on efforts to touch base with militant organizations.

According to data provided by the task force, 93 of the 122 party-list members killed since Ms Arroyo assumed power in 2001 were from Bayan Muna, and the rest from Anakpawis, Gabriela and other party-list groups.

Militants had earlier said they would prefer the Church, the Senate or even the United Nations to conduct the investigation.

But Razon said one skeptical group, Karapatan, appeared to be opening up to the idea of cooperating with the police.

"One group that, we were told, had a change of heart is Karapatan. It is thinking of bringing the cases to the PNP but it is also considering Congress, the Commission on Human Rights, and other forums," Razon said.

Lack of witnesses

One of the problems identified by the task force as to why cases remained unsolved was the lack of witnesses.

"We'd like to assure [the militants] that the creation of Task Force Usig [was intended for the conduct of] a thorough investigation, to get to the bottom of all these cases and to leave no stone unturned," Razon said. With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Luigi A. del Puerto in Manila

Filing of murder cases not enough, GMA told

By Norman Bordadora

A PRESS FREEDOM WATCHDOG GROUP has disputed President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that most of the killings of journalists in the country have already been solved.

In a letter to Ms Arroyo dated May 15, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists told the President that the filing of murder charges against suspects did not mean the killings have already been solved.

"Simply filing a murder case is not the same as solving it," said CPJ executive director Ann Cooper in the group's letter, copies of which were given to US Senators Richard Lugar and Joseph Biden, a host of international press advocacy groups and Philippine Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario.

"Denying the problem of impunity for

killers of journalists does a great disservice to the Philippine press and to the families of the slain journalists. As an organization dedicated to defending our colleagues worldwide, we urge you to ensure the arrest, trial and conviction of those responsible for killing Philippine journalists," Cooper added.

The CPJ's retort comes in the wake of the Philippine government's answer to Lugar's inquiries about the state of press freedom in the country in light of the series of killings that earned the country the tag of most murderous country for journalists in 2005.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and the Philippine National Police have denied that a culture of impunity against media persons existed in the country. Bunye also said majority of the journalists' slays had already been solved, while the PNP claimed that 39 of 49 killings had already been solved.

Mining probe body urges...

From page A1

operations of Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd. on Rapu-Rapu island, Albay.

The Rapu-Rapu fact-finding commission headed by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes called on the government to cancel the environmental compliance certificate issued to two companies of the Lafayette Group, and for a moratorium on mining on the island.

It also asked the government to "review the Philippine mining act, specifically the provision on the ownership and management of mining firms and operations," Reuters news agency said, quoting from what it said was an advance copy of the report.

Over-reaction

Lafayette company president and chief executive officer Carlos Dominguez said the panel's recommendation was an "over-reaction" to the environment incidents on Rapu-Rapu.

"With respect to their findings, it is in my belief that it has been exceedingly harsh and unforgiving considering that the incidents have been minor," Dominguez told the INQUIRER.

Dominguez asked what would happen to the 1,000 employees of the mines and to the economic benefits for the local community on the island if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources followed the commission's recommendation.

"We hope the DENR would also consider the opinion of the Sangguniang Barangay, the municipal and provincial governments there," he added.

Dissenting view

Commission vice chair Charles Avila said in a press conference: "This country is not a nation of prostitutes—that's the message that we want to get to investors."

"The mining industry is very promising if we do it properly by not sacrificing the environment and the people's health."

One of the nine members of the commission refused to sign the 169-page final report, saying he disagreed with some of its conclusions.

"I am unable to affix my signature to the final report of the commission as I disagree with a number of its findings and recommendations," commissioner Gregorio Tabuena wrote Bastes. "I also feel that the commission has gone beyond its mandate."

Mining output

In its report, the commission asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue to investigate the Lafayette Group "for underreporting of ore/processed ore production and violations of tax laws."

It asked the government to order the company to "pay back all back taxes equivalent to those waived because of incentives/privileges for the whole duration of their mining operations."

The commission found supposed discrepancies between the amount of gold ore the Rapu-Rapu Minerals Inc. (RRMI) reported to the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 5 (67,693 metric tons) and the amount the company reported to the commission (136,180 metric tons).

Lafayette's side

"The excise tax paid by the RRMI is probably only half of what it ought to pay the national government," the commission said.

The commission also noted an alleged forgery of a town council's signature in a resolution endorsing Rapu-Rapu as an ecozone.

Answering the commission's claim about discrepancies in the firm's gold ore reports,

RRMI's legal counsel Bayani Agabin said what the company reported to the MGB was "consistent" with what it reported to the commission.

On the alleged tax deficiencies, Agabin said the "wrong formula" must have been used in computing the amount of gold ore that had been mined.

Present proof

Agabin said the firm was aware of allegations about forgery in the ecozone certification resolution "but that is an allegation that has yet to be proven."

"You cannot simply cancel a permit based on a simple allegation. That is why we have the courts," Agabin said. "Somebody accuses someone of rape. That is just an accusation. You still have to go to court to prove it."

He said the company had admitted there had been lapses in operations "but these were minor and all the remedial measures had been completed."

DENR scored

Mining operations on Rapu-Rapu drew headlines following two tailings spills in October last year which reportedly led to fish kills and affected the fishing industry.

"The discharged tailings and effluents do not only carry cyanide but other toxic heavy metals as shown in subsequent studies made," the commission said.

The commission scored the DENR for allowing the company to resume operations six days after the first incident.

"Lafayette had no emergency mechanism to stop or mitigate this kind of incident," it said.

The commission said: "It was also negligent of the MGB officials who were coincidentally in the area on the day of the tailings incident and who conducted an on-the-spot investigation when they failed to impose immediate remediation measures on the mining company."

Reyes will have last say

Dominguez said Lafayette would immediately meet with the Pollution Abatement Board and show proof that the company should be allowed a test run.

"The burden of deciding whether we should be allowed to run will solely rest on (Environment) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes," he said.

He said that the company had paid dearly enough when it was fined more than P10 million and that more than P400 million had been spent to put up necessary remedial measures in the area to prevent any environmental disasters in the future.

The mine is the first in the Philippines to be developed by a foreign company in almost four decades and has so far yielded 2,500 ounces of gold.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said it believed that the government would be fair and consider the best scenario for the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Mines of Lafayette.

Respect findings but ...

"We respect their findings but it is just one opinion. We have presented a separate independent study that the DENR and Malacañang should also consider in making their final verdict for the Rapu-Rapu project," Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said.

He noted that the Bastes report did not tackle any issue on ownership and the industry had remained steadfast in its stand that any review that would strengthen the Philippine Mining Law was a welcome development for the industry.

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RP hosts for 1st time festival of 'theater for all'

By Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHAT WAS A GROUP OF DRAMA lists from Burkina Faso doing in Muñoz City in Nueva Ecija, known as the Science Center of Central Luzon?

The visiting dramatists from the Center for Training and Research in Live Performing Arts in Burkina Faso conducted a drama workshop on classical and indigenously African works for faculty and students from Muñoz and other towns and cities of Nueva Ecija.

But where in the world is Burkina Faso? Formerly known as the Upper Volta, it is a small landlocked country in West Africa of about 10 million people, which used to be part of the French protectorate.

It is clear across the other side of the world. But for three days its visiting dramatists, whose official language is French, were feted by Muñoz officialdom, led by Muñoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez, and the townsfolk to characteristic Filipino hospitality and a generous display of native talents.

Exchange of cultures

In turn, the townspeople treated them to a cultural fare that included interpretive dances from the Central Luzon State University woven around the theme of planting and harvesting of rice, as well as from the Bungkos Palay Dance Troupe of Mayor Nestor Alvarez.

The African dramatists are part of the 150 or so foreign participants—mainly top university faculty and students from 12 drama

institutions around the world—to the World Festival of Drama Schools.

RP hosts for first time

The festival from May 16 to May 31 is a major event of the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI) World Congress with the Philippines hosting for the first time in the ITI's 58 years.

The Philippines won the bid to host the biennial world cultural olympics at the 30th Congress in Tampico, in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, two years ago.

The World Drama Festival here appears to have been patterned after the recently concluded Southeast Asian Games here. The cultural events are being distributed around the country in order to maximize cultural exposure both among the host and guest cities, instead of confining them only to the capital.

The visiting dramatists will conduct workshops on drama skills development and methodology in 11 assigned cities, while their hosts will treat them to a cultural fare along distinctly indigenous themes.

Regional workshops

These regional workshops and exchanges will be in addition to the several workshops being held in various schools in Metro Manila by leading foreign drama professors, actors and stage directors.

The theme of a "Theater for All" along the lines of cultural diversity and art as a tool for social development was conceptualized by Unesco education chair Dr.

Cornelius Dumitriu, a Rumanian, and Cecile Guidote Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and ITI Philippines president, and mass media communications professor Nick Lizaro, the festival director.

The 11 participating RP cities were chosen for the strong presence of educational institutions and a heavy cultural flavor and tradition in their respective regions.

Lizaro stressed that there will be an average of seven schools participating per region. It's easy to see how great a cultural boon this will be for the faculty and students around the country.

Peruvians to Vigan

For instance, Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson brought aboard his private plane dramatists from the National School for Dramatic Arts of Lima, Peru, in South America, for a vibrant cultural interaction. Singson assured the Peruvians that there would be no need for Spanish interpreters for them, as this ever-loyal colonial city has preserved its generous share of Hispanic culture.

Another city with a rich Hispanic past, Zamboanga City, will put its fabled chabacano, an interesting pidgin Spanish that's bound to shock and awe the Hispanic world, to good use when it hosts the theater faculty of Veracruzana University of Mexico.

Baguio, Isabela

Baguio, with its dense concentration of schools, led by the UP and St. Louis University, will host the National School of Drama of

India, while Santiago City in Isabela, under Mayor Amelita Navarro, will interact with the University of Cape Town's drama department.

Around 12 schools in Isabela, led by the La Salle University, will participate in the exchange and draw observers from all over the Cagayan Valley.

Legazpi City will interact with the Shanghai Theater Academy of China, with whom it's currently working out sister-city relationship. Students of the Bicol University will show off the legends of Mayon in dance and drama, but observers will come from Naga and Iriga cities as well as Sorsogon.

Fireworks for Rumanians

Cagayan de Oro City, seat of Xavier University, will receive the National University of Drama and Film of Rumania, which is named after I.L. Caragiale, a famous Rumanian actor. Students from as far as Iligan City and Bukidnon are expected to participate there, and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno is preparing a fireworks show the Rumanians may never have seen before.

Iloilo City will host the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theater, Cinema and Television of the Ukraine with the University of San Agustin in the lead.

Bias for Singapore

Puerto Princesa City will interact with the Theater Department from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts of Singapore. Mayor Edward Hagedorn specifically chose to in-

teract with Singapore, and the speculation is that he's biased for that city as it's also clean and green.

Davao City, seat of Ateneo de Davao, has specifically asked to host the Faculty of Dramatic & Music Arts of Teheran University in Iran, possibly due to its strong Muslim population. But observers will come from as far as General Santos City and Davao Oriental.

Link to the world

In addition to the on-the-spot cultural exchanges in these 11 regions around the country, our culture and tourism will get a big boost. On Wednesday night, all of them were simultaneously linked up with their respective visitor countries from all over the world by webcast, as they commenced the cultural performances.

Moreover, each foreign delegation will be filming its experiences in its assigned region and all of these films will be compiled at the Unesco headquarters in Paris and for world distribution.

World heritage sites

Each delegation will be taken, after the cultural interaction, to a distinct World Heritage Site here.

For instance, the South Africa drama group will be taken from Isabela to Banaue to view the world-famed Ifugao Rice Terraces, before motoring to Manila. The Ukrainian group will visit the beautiful Miag-Ao Church in Iloilo, while the Singapore group will be treated to the Underground River in Palawan.

The Chinese will get to photo-

graph the magnificently sculpted slopes of the world's most perfect cone, Mayon Volcano.

Choirs

In all these cultural exchanges of the 31st Unesco-ITI World Congress, surely one of the most awaited events will be the interaction of heavenly voices between our very own Loboc Choir of Bohol and the famed Chimalli Choir of Mexico right in Loboc, Bohol. The Chimalli Choir was formed by children from the Meced Program, identified in a brochure as "children in especially difficult circumstances." Once they have been incorporated into this program, these Mexican kids are given health care and education to improve the quality of life.

It was then that the idea of creating a state choir arose, as a result of which auditions were held in each of the 15 municipalities involved. 450 children were selected to form 14 municipal choirs, and out of these, another 50 were chosen for the Chimalli Choir.

GMA dinner for delegates

From Loboc both choirs will be brought to Manila to sing at the dinner to be tendered by President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang for the congress delegates on May 22 evening, and the opening of the Leaders' Forum, to be led by Unesco Executive Director Keiichiro Matsuura.

The interaction between the Loboc and Chimalli Choirs alone would make the entire congress well worth the effort and expense.

Garduce makes it triple treat for RP

From page A1

Garduce spoke in his phone patch from Camp 4 on the upper slopes of the mountain.

"This is a symbol that the Filipino can [do it]. This is not the last time that we will achieve extraordinary things."

But Everest would not be his last adventure, Garduce said.

"Maybe after two or three months (of rest), I was thinking that, next time, I might try the South Pole or the Sahara," he said, referring to the icy Antarctica region and to the world's largest hot desert in northern Africa.

Garduce said he encountered strong winds on the South side of the Everest and the effort left him exhausted.

"We had a bit of bad luck in our climb because since last night, around 9:30 p.m. Nepal time, the wind was blowing hard," he said, speaking in Filipino.

He said the wind blew hard for hours.

"We didn't know if we were going to have clear weather at all," he said. "But we had to try for it (the summit) and we got it."

Garduce said the route to the South Summit and the climb up the vertically steep and dangerous Hillary Step close to the top, where

many other mountaineers have died in their quest for glory, were the most difficult phases of the assault.

Reporting yesterday from Base Camp GMA 7's Jiggy Manicad said Garduce announced his successful ascent in a radio message: "Parang nasa summit na ako. Yohoo!"

Garduce: No turning back

Garduce, an IT manager, also said strong winds and snow were buffeting the peak.

According to mounteverest.net, members of an Italian expedition headed for the summit said they were turning back to Camp 4 at around midnight of Friday Nepal time because of strong winds.

But they said other teams were pushing on, including Alpine Ascent, a US-based commercial expedition, and Garduce.

But around 4 a.m. yesterday Nepal time, the weather reportedly started to clear and some expeditions set off in another push for the summit.

The other night and early yesterday, the weather at the Base Camp also deteriorated, cutting off radio contact between Garduce and his support team.

But the weather cleared later, until his feat was confirmed through radio.

It was a 1-2-3 finish for Filipino

mountaineers.

Only on Wednesday, Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to set foot on the summit of Everest.

On Thursday, Erwin "Pastor" Emata followed suit.

At Base Camp

Oracion and Emata, both members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (PPMEE), jubilantly returned to Base Camp yesterday at around 4 p.m. Nepal time, ABS-CBN reported.

Emata was ahead of Oracion, but waited for the latter so they could enter Base Camp together.

They were heartily welcomed by PPMEE co-leader Arturo Valdez and other members who had served as support team.

The PPMEE said the entire team was preparing to descend from the Khumbu region, and would depart for Manila before month's end.

In a statement, the PPMEE extended congratulations to Garduce, saying the Pinoy Everest expeditions would not have been complete without his success.

Many mountains

"After Leo and Pastor's symbolic back-to-back triumphs on Mt. Everest ... Romi's successful summit ascent only proves that the Filipino can achieve the impossi-

ble," it said.

Garduce, a native of Balanga, Bataan, has scaled many mountains—Aconcagua in South America (6,962 meters or 22,842 feet), Kilimanjaro in Africa (5,895 meters or 19,400 feet), Elbrus in Russia (5,642 meters or 18,499 feet) and Cho-Oyu in the Himalayan range (8,201 meters or 26,906 feet).

The first three are part of the Seven Summits, or the highest peaks in each of the continents.

Everest also belongs to this list and is the dream of every mountaineer.

Cho-Oyu is the sixth highest mountain in the world.

Mountaineers who have scaled all the Seven Summits are considered world-class.

Garduce has climbed and trekked on 15 other mountain ranges around the world since the 1990s—a record unmatched by any other Filipino mountaineer.

He has been a member of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers since 1991, and is an expert diver and adventure racer.

The UP Mountaineers is proud and happy of Romi's accomplishment. He did it the UP way by not treating it as a race

and having safety in mind. This is only the beginning. We are glad Romi and the other two climbers are all safe and that nothing bad happened to them," said UPM member Ninoy Leyran.

Principal sponsors

The climbs of Oracion and Emata on one hand and of Garduce on the other were principally funded by broadcast networks ABS-CBN and GMA 7, respectively.

the President. The threat, he said, prompted the police to provide him with a bullet-proof car.

"I am at loss as to the media value that can be gained from exposing my security vehicle to the public at large except that it had given important leads to those people who are monitoring my movements," he said.

On Thursday, Gonzalez ordered Time correspondent Nelly Sindayen placed under the watch list of the Bureau of Immigration to compel her to reveal those behind the alleged Feb. 24 coup attempt. Armand N. Nocum)

ly. The rival networks had deployed crews that gave blow-by-blow accounts of the climbs.

Yesterday, while GMA 7 broke into regular news to announce Garduce's achievement, ABS-CBN largely ignored it, instead carrying live coverage of Oracion and Emata's descent from Everest. With an AFP report

Correction

IN THE MAY 18 issue,

a story on Page

A16—"House still a

millionaire's club"—did not state the complete name of the representative of Aurora. The congressman is Juan Edgardo—not just Edgardo—Angara. His father Edgardo Angara is a senator. The same article misstated the area represented by Congressman Gilbert Teodoro. Teodoro represents the first district of Tarlac—not Pangasinan.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Magsaysay Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Anti-graft project launched

AN ANTI-CORRUPTION PROJECT FUNDED by the International Development Fund of the World Bank will reduce corruption opportunities through systems reforms in various government transactions, according to the chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

PAGC Chair Constance P de Guzman made the optimistic prediction following the kick-off meeting on the project in Malacañang on Tuesday.

The project, funded by a \$300,000 grant from the World Bank, aims to strengthen Internal Audit Units in the government. It will be implemented by PAGC with the assistance of SGV & Co. for an eight-month period at a total cost of at least P6 million.

The project has three components—a quality assessment of the internal audit function; the development of a quality assurance program for internal audit units; and the development of an internal audit manual.

The kick-off meeting was intended to facilitate coordination during project implementation and was attended by representatives of 14 of the 15 agencies and project partners.

They included 11 from the national government agencies, one from constitutional bodies, and two from the local government units.

The agencies included the Office of the President and the departments of public works and highways (DPWH), health (DOH), education (DepEd), defense (DND) including Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), interior and local government (DILG), agriculture (DA), budget, and social welfare.

De Guzman said, "When fully implemented, the project is expected to reduce corruption opportunities in various government transactions through systems reform."

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What it takes to be a mountaineer

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—WHAT DOES IT take to be a mountaineer?

Fitness is the first and essential requirement, according to Noel Suministrado, a mountaineer from Quezon province.

"One must be physically fit to tackle long walks, steep climbs and leg-busting descents, and to carry back-breaking loads," he said.

A pastor of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, Suministrado described mountain-climbing as also a test of one's mental acumen.

"One must have common sense, sensitivity and good decision-making skills that can be achieved through dedicated training and years of actual climbs," said Suministrado, who started to climb mountains in 1992.

He cited the importance of a genuine concern for the environment, summing it up in the popular traveler's adage, "Take nothing but pictures, kill nothing but time, leave nothing but footprints."

The Protestant pastor who also teaches theology helped found the Tayabas Mountaineers, which is based in Tayabas town at the foot of Mt. Banahaw.

In 1994, the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines held its annual climb and congress in Banahaw de Tayabas.

Don't scrimp on gear

Suministrado warned that a beginner should not be too fast to hit the mountain trail.

He said a beginner should be able to master basic mountaineering courses like equipment familiarization, compass reading,



SUMMITRY: Leo Oracion in the video footage he takes at the top of the world where he plants the Philippine flag.

wilderness travel, first aid and

rope knots, among many others.

"We received our training from the University of the Philippines Mountaineers and have since then scaled peaks here and abroad," he said.

Suministrado said it was imperative to use equipment—tents, parkas, backpacks and boots—that have been tested for mountain use.

"One must be willing to spend on these. Scrimping on equipment may test the line between

life and death up in the mountains," he said.

A good set of climbing equipment costs around P30,000, according to Suministrado. "It depends on the brand," he said, and rattled off other required gear such as mountaineering stoves and cooking sets, ropes and sleeping bags.

Suministrado said the expenses would get more steep if one ventured into technical rock climbing, wherein one would need carabiners, harnesses and passive and active protection gear.

In 1995, Suministrado went into rock climbing and established routes at Tinandog Wall in Barangay Tinandog, Atimonan, 165 kilometers south of Manila.

"Since then, various climbers here and abroad have scaled this limestone beauty," he said.

Suministrado has also climbed mountains abroad.

He had his first taste of alpine climbing in the French and Swiss Alps, and climbed the rocky Tors in Port Hills in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Other sites to climb

With the government's temporary closure of Banahaw to trekkers to pave the way for its rehabilitation, Suministrado identified other mountains and places to climb, like Mt. Makiling in Los

Balos, Laguna; Mt. Halcon in Baco, Oriental Mindoro; Mt. Makulot in Cuenca, Batangas; Tinandog limestone wall along the Maharlika Highway in Atimonan; and Pinagbandahan, also in Atimonan.

He issued the reminder that these places had rules and policies on trekking and climbing.

He said climbers should secure proper permits from local authorities before venturing out.

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Lucio Tan one of big donors behind climbers

From page A1

PAL's and Summit's sponsorships, Valdez sounded out his team's cash problems regarding the hiring of Sherpas.

Tan obliged by handing out an additional P1 million cash, which meant the expedition was a go.

Regie Pablo, the expedition's team coordinator, told the INQUIRER that the team was initially surprised why Tan had taken so much interest in the expedition.

But after sitting down with the tycoon for two hours that day, Pablo said the team members realized that Tan shared their passion for climbing the world's tallest peak.

When asked why he was supporting their cause, Tan said that if he were younger he, too, would have dreamt of scaling the Everest.

A nation's pride

Tan also felt that the expedition was "a matter of national pride."

"We were impressed with his extensive knowledge of geography, especially the little known tidbits about Mt. Everest, Nepal and Tibet," said Pablo. "We were told that he rarely sits down and talk with people he does not know."

Pablo said that during the meeting, Tan told them: "Let's do it for the country. I'd like to see the Philippine flag waving at the summit of Mt. Everest. Make the Philippines proud."

Each climber costs \$65,000

"The permit to climb alone would cost you \$70,000 for a minimum of 7 people," said Pablo.

Although he could not say what the budget of the expedition was, Pablo said a commercial climb—where climbers are pooled and make their ascent together—costs \$65,000 each and this would include the fees for the Sherpas, food and oxygen.

Aside from PAL, Summit, Stratworks and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. (media coverage and communication equipment), the expedition's backers were Coleman (climbing and camping gear), Fitness First, Mozcom, Power Up, Med Central, National Sports Grille, the Rudy Project, Kodak and the Philippine Accident Manager's Insurance.

In contrast, the parallel climb of Rommel Garduce mounted by GMA Broadcasting Corp. had an easier time finding sponsors, probably because the overhead cost was lower and Valdez's team had already generated interest by the time the climb came to be seen as a race between rival networks, according to a GMA official.

Rikku Escudero, assistant vice president for GMA's news and public affairs, said its marketing team was quick in getting a full list of corporate backers, such as North Face, My Marvel, Taheeb, Caltex, Revicon, Summit Mineral Water, San Miguel Corp., J-MAX Theater and SM Cinema.

Cost to GMA: P13M

Escudero said GMA alone forked out P13 million to bankroll Garduce's climb, not counting the uplink equipment used to communicate to the Everest base camp from the peak, "which costs us a pretty penny."

She said the response to the Filipino's conquest of Everest was amazing.

"We don't have snow-capped mountains here but every Filipino was touched by the coverage. It makes you proud to be a Filipino," said Escudero.

GMA was also approached by Valdez's team in 2004 but Escudero said: "We could not give them the 70-hour air time because back then, we didn't have QTV (another GMA TV station), unlike our rival," Escudero said.

GMA's opportunity came when North Face offered a tie-up for the climb of Garduce, which would cost P2.5 million.

"It was an open and honest transaction. He said when he comes back he will liquidate all expenses," Escudero said.

Covering history

Escudero said it would be "simplistic" to say that the corporation's interest in the climb was merely for profit and prestige. "It's meaningful history. As a network, you want to cover history," Escudero said.

The P13 million GMA spent for production and operation expenses covered their crew's expenses, like airfares, accommodations, supplies, and \$2,400 for three Sherpas. Not included was the amount they spent for special equipment, like C-Band uplink from London and a Thuraya satellite phone.

The network also gave P2.5 million to North Face for Garduce's expenses, like logistics, high risk insurance premiums, plane fare and equipment that was not provided by The North Face, as well as phone calls and food.

The amount has to be liquidated.

Stratworks' Reyes said the expedition was hopeful that the success of this expedition would generate enough mass to boost fund-

ing for the 2007 project of sending a full expedition (7 to 10 members) to climb the Everest using the North and South access. With a report from Alcuit Papa

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'We were exhausted and hungry ...

From page A1

But Oracion said the lack of oxygen at that altitude was not the only factor that made the ascent arduous.

"I was exhausted, hungry, and there was nothing to drink. I had a hard time walking and I had to use my remaining energy to push for the summit. That was all the energy I had left," he said.

Emata, on the other hand, seemed

to have been on a lark, reaching the top of Everest from Camp 4 in a little more than seven hours.

"It was very easy. The mountain favored me. There was no difficulty at all," he said.

But on the way down, Emata said, his water supply dwindled to ice.

"There was a strong wind from Camp 4. And the descent was harder

than the climb up. But I thank God for bringing us to safety," he said.

Oracion and Emata thanked their compatriots for their successful climb of Everest.

"To all Filipinos, especially those who prayed for us, thank you and Mabuhay," said Emata.

"Our feat showed that if we unite, the Pinoy can," said Oracion.

Subic Holiday Villas: A Leisure and Retirement Haven

The Subic Holiday Villas (SHV) is a leisure and retirement homes facility located on a 4-hectare land at the George Dewey Convention Center Complex, Kalyeza Heights, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ).

Of the planned 3-storey building to be constructed on the site, two (2) of them, namely: Villa Enrique and Villa Cecilia, with the 128 condominium units, will be inaugurated today, May 20, 2006, together with the Amenities Building, otherwise known as the Club House which houses such amenities as the mini-theatre, library, function room, business center, pharmacy and medical clinic, gym and sauna, coffee shop, etc., as well as the swimming pool and all the land improvements within Phase I of the Project.

SHV is an affiliate of the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA). Buyers of Bedroom and bigger units will be entitled to a Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) upon submission of the requirements. Notable among its benefits are multiple entries to and from the Philippines and indefinite stay in the country.

Overall, the Subic Holiday Villas is in line with the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Ten Point System Program which is to develop Subic and Clark as a competitive logistics and service area. The projected influx of foreign investments will surely create a need for housing foreign expatriates. As such, the Subic Holiday Villas will be providing first-class home accommodation for foreigners and locals as well.

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Stalemate

MALACAÑANG AND ITS ALLIES IN THE HOUSE of Representatives have not given up their grand scheme to get back at the Senate for daring to assert its rights and prerogatives, especially in investigating wrongdoing in the Arroyo administration. They have been trying to coerce, cajole and trick the Senate to cooperate in arranging its own death by supporting some quickie modes of amending the Constitution, like the so-called people's initiative, which would have as the first item on the agenda the abolition of the Senate.

EDITORIAL In its latest attempt to make the Senate agree to Charter change, administration officials suggested that the Senate committee on constitutional amendments sit down with its House counterpart to discuss the matter. That happened Tuesday when the senators, led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, attended the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council in what some people thought to mark the thawing of chilly relations between Malacañang and the Senate following Drilon's call for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in July last year.

The next day, however, the Senate committee on constitutional amendments headed by Sen. Richard Gordon rejected the idea of convening a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. Gordon said that while the 1935 Constitution mentioned Congress convening as a constituent assembly to introduce amendments to the Charter, the 1987 Constitution no longer prescribes that mode. Instead, the present Constitution merely says, "Any amendment to or revision of this Constitution may be proposed by Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of its members or a constitutional convention." Gordon said this means that Congress can amend the Charter without formally convening as a constituent assembly. He pointed out that even the rules of the House of Representatives, governing amendments to the Charter, recognize this. One of those rules says that proposals to amend or revise the Constitution shall be done through a resolution "which may be filed at any time by any member."

Clear enough, and a lot simpler and faster than converting Congress to a constituent assembly. So why don't the proponents of Charter change go for it? For one big reason: It's unlikely that they can muster the needed three-fourths vote to get their amendments through the Senate, especially one that would establish a unicameral parliament that would have the effect of abolishing the Senate itself. Obviously, Malacañang and its House allies think they would have a better chance of ramming their proposal through a constituent assembly, where the pro-administration majority hopes to swamp the opposition in both the House and the Senate.

But even a constituent assembly—if it could be convened, in the first place—wouldn't guarantee smooth passage for the Cha-cha train. It would raise the still unresolved issue of how the voting will be conducted, with most senators insisting that the two houses of Congress must vote separately. It is a view supported by several constitutionalists who argue that if ordinary laws must go through the sieve of separate voting by the two chambers, then the process of amending the fundamental law must have been designed to be more rigid by the framers of the Constitution—that is, with a requirement that Charter changes be approved by a three-fourths vote in each house.

For all the noise they are making about getting the Cha-cha train on track and moving, the proponents of Charter change are finding themselves caught in a stalemate, with the Senate blocking every move they make. Why don't they begin a new game called constitutional convention?

Immigration reform

TROOPS DON'T MAKE AN IMMIGRATION POLICY, AND LAME ducks don't usually inspire a following. But if President Bush keeps the pressure on for the kind of comprehensive reform he talked about Monday night, a realistic immigration policy could result.

Yet the 6,000 National Guard troops Bush wants to send to the border represent the only part of his immigration proposal he can control. The rest is up to Congress. **FOREIGN COMMENT** What's needed is comprehensive reform that includes a guest-worker program, tough workplace enforcement and eventual legalization for the current illegal population. Even without additional law enforcement, those strategies would help alleviate the chaos at the border by channeling workers into a legal, orderly process for entering the country.

Bush's speech offered hope that he's willing, finally, to really push for comprehensive reform. *Arizona Republic (Phoenix, Arizona)*

JINGGOY ESTRADA WAS ORIGINALLY DETAINED as a co-principal with his father for the heinous offense of plunder but was later granted bail on the ground, if I remember correctly, that he should be charged only as an accomplice with the corresponding decrease in his possible penalty.

This was supposed to be an application of Sec. 13 of the Bill of Rights providing as follows:

"All persons, except those charged with offenses punishable by reclusion perpetua when evidence of guilt is strong, shall, before conviction, be bailable by sufficient sureties, or be released on recognizance as may be provided by law. The right to bail shall not be impaired even when the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended. Excessive bail shall not be required."

Rule 114, Sec. 1 of the Rules of Court defines bail as "the security given for the release of a person in custody of the law, furnished by him or a bondsman, conditioned upon his appearance before any court as may be required." It is a complement to the also constitutional presumption of innocence and is intended to give the accused every opportunity to gather evidence to rebut the prosecution.

(However, this will not be necessary if the prosecution is weak because the accused will be presumed innocent and accordingly acquitted.)

The right to bail is available to every person accused of a crime except when he is charged with a heinous offense and evidence of his guilt is strong. The two conditions must concur to deny him this constitutional right that is available to all other accused not similarly situated.

Thus, if the possible penalty of the accused is reclusion perpetua or death but the evidence against him is not strong, he has the right to be granted bail. He will also be released on bail even if the evidence against him is strong as

The right to bail

SEPARATE OPINION



Isagani A. Cruz

long as his possible penalty upon conviction is not reclusion perpetua or death.

Erap is a detention prisoner because he is charged with the capital crime of plunder and the evidence against him is considered strong by the Sandiganbayan. He thus falls under the exception in Art. III, Sec. 13 of the Constitution. If he were charged only with concubinage and the evidence against him was strong, or with the serious crime of rebellion but the evidence against him was weak, he would be out on bail joining the rallies against GMA.

I notice, however, that many prosecutors object to the grant of bail on the ground only of the crime charged regardless of the weakness of the evidence against the accused. Many trial judges automatically agree and ignore the second requirement in the afore-quoted Sec 13. They obviously assume that the evidence against the accused is strong if he is charged with a heinous offense, but that is not what the Bill of Rights allows.

Another rule that is often ignored rather than observed is that bail should be granted only where a person is in the custody of the law or at large. This means he is a detention prisoner. The practice, however, is to apply for bail even before a suspect is arrested and subjected to the indignity and inconvenience of confinement, however temporary, in a prison cell.

In fact, "prison cell" is a misnomer in our crowded detention jails in the centers of population. The prisoners are jam-packed in small enclosures with hardly any space for lying

down and sleeping. Even seating space is for hire to paying lessees. Although they are entitled to the right to bail, they cannot afford it and so must remain under detention while they wait to be tried.

Their trials may take months and even years to conclude, often beyond the impossible penalty for the crimes they are alleged to have committed. Some of them may become so accustomed to their confinement that they will be reluctant to leave their comfortless premises and their miserable company.

There are privileged prisoners, however, who are usually allowed to remain in the air-conditioned offices of the prison warden while waiting to be released on bail. They can benefit from the prohibition against excessive bail, which Justice Jackson of the US Supreme Court described as "a teasing illusion like a munificent bequest in a pauper's will."

In one case, the accused was required to post bail in the amount of P1,195,200, which he could not raise. It was like giving with one hand and taking back with the other hand in a clear violation of the Constitution. No wonder the fellow simply escaped, probably by bribing the prison guards. It was cheaper.

One improvement of the present Constitution is the retention of the right to bail even though the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended. It was not so during the past despotism when Marcos indefinitely imprisoned many of his enemies who were denied relief from the "great writ of liberty" by his legitimizing Supreme Court.

The sad note about the right to bail is that many potential convicts have availed themselves of the guaranty and deliberately made their trials move at a snail's pace while they enjoy their liberty from the long but permissible arm of the law they have violated. The courts should stop this flagrant abuse by speeding up the administration of justice, especially in criminal cases.

Unpresidential appointments and dismissals

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE OBVIOUS that some of the more conspicuous appointments and dismissals in government service that the President makes (she is directly responsible for the fate of some 11,000 government employees/officials) are based not so much on the best interest of the public, but more on other grounds, such as her own best interest. Her bitterest critics would claim that all her other Presidential actions are made on the same basis; but given that in their eyes she can do no right, that claim has to be discounted.

There are, however, enough glaring examples of atrocious appointments and dismissals that would make even her most loyal supporters wince. Take the appointments of Virgilio Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona to the Commission on Elections (or, for that matter, of Benjamin Abalos Sr.). The timing of those appointments made a difference in the 2004 elections. The President stubbornly ignored any and all objections to those appointments, and now she is paying heavily the price for her intransigence. (Unfortunately, so is the Comelec in particular, and the country in general.) Her appointment of Ronnie Puno, (whose reputation as an "influencer" of election results seems to be unrivaled) to the Department of Interior and Local Government is another example. People see this move as election-related; and while the 2007 elections are still a year away, the hand of the Dilg is already being felt in the so-called people's initiative, such that it is called the Puno initiative—with the resulting disempowerment of the people.

Less conspicuous—but certainly just as important because of the country's problems in higher education—was the appointment as president of the Mindanao State University of someone who was not even in the search committee's short list. I am not sure how this was accomplished. The university's board of regents is headed by the chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)—who should know better—while its membership includes a faculty representative and a student represen-

ranking 7th among the eight candidates evaluated by the search committee. And the reason, he didn't place No. 8 was that one of the candidates failed to submit some required documents.

And it would seem that even as she hires the least qualified, she gets rid of the most qualified, like what she did with Miguel Luz (Department of Education), and lately, Sally Bulaotao (National Dairy Authority). What was Sally's fault? Not the trumped-up charges about conduct inimical to the government. (Good grief, how can a pro-bono project undertaken by McCann-Erickson be inimical?) Her fault is that she is married to Gerry Bulaotao, who is virulently anti-Gloria. But that weighs more than her success in developing the dairy industry, in the process giving livelihood to farmers and improving the health of the poor.

Ed Gerlock, who is doing a yeoman's work with the elderly, has this to say about Sally: "Twice in the last five years, she asked me to document the development of the dairy industry among poor farmers. I traveled to Mindanao and saw the milk-feeding program in urban poor areas of Davao—and a school (Assumption) that scrapped the junk food menu in favor of dairy products from the co-op (frozen durian-flavored milk...), met farmers who had quit their service jobs as waiters and drivers, to work full time with the developing milk program... to Laguna to a plant that processed the milk from the co-op members into cheese, yogurt, 'Gatas Pinoy,' etc., and met farmers from Bulacan with one or two cows who felt hopeful that the government was serious and they themselves had a future in the dairy industry." Sally is both competent and committed... the government will be hard put to find another Sally Bulaotao—and somebody not only owes Sally an apology."

It seems President Arroyo is extremely ill-advised, or has serious priority-setting problems. Whatever the reason, what she is doing is not worthy of her—as a person and as President.

OPINION



Cop-out

POLITICAL
TIDBITSBelinda
Olivares-Cunanan

WHATEVER JOY CHARTER-CHANGE ADVOCATES may have had after the Leda meeting, wherein both chambers of Congress signified their willingness to conduct a "dialogue" on that issue, seems to have been dashed by what's being passed off as the "Senate position." The senators said that in contrast to the House position seeking to convert Congress immediately to a constituent assembly to take up amendments to or revision of the Constitution, their position is that this will be treated as an "ordinary" piece of legislation. Meaning, the resolution to change the Charter will have to go through the un-terminable legislative mill, just like any bill, with the two versions having to be reconciled in the bicameral conference committee.

The senators' intention to treat the Charter change issue just like any other bill forebodes big trouble. If the Senate's poor record in passing urgent legislation is any indication, Charter change could languish there for years, just like so many urgent legislation such as the bio-fuels bill, the anti-terrorism and anti-smuggling bills, etc. If they allowed these bills to sleep, think how much worse the Cha-cha resolution would fare.

By now the senators must have realized that the presidential system has been a failure over the past 50 years, and that a unicameral parliament would be much more efficient and save us as much as P5 billion a year. But that seems not to matter to the senators, for what is of paramount importance to them is the survival of their chamber and the higher ambitions of a few. How unfair to hold hostage a whole nation's progress to those sentiments.

At this point a "legislated Cha-cha" looks like a cop-out. I sure hope they don't ignore Albay Rep Edcel Lagman's timely reminder that the act of proposing constitutional amendments is "not an ordinary process" because it needs a "special mechanism" like a constituent assembly. The senators, perpetually looking for arguments to shelve Charter change, now also argue that the 1987 Constitution did not specifically mention a constituent assembly as a mechanism for change, unlike the 1935 Constitution. True, but this does

MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE CASES handled by the Women's Crisis Center at its Women and Children Crisis Care and Protection Unit (WCCCPU) at the East Avenue Medical Center consist of rape, incest and child abuse committed against children and adolescents. This isn't counting the children of women survivors of abuse who are either themselves victims or witnesses to violence and who join their mothers at the Center.

But when the child survivors came to them, the staff of the WCC had no choice but to lump them together with the adult clients, providing them with counseling, medical and legal assistance, temporary shelter and referrals.

But today, thanks to The Body Shop, children who drop by the WCCCPU or accompany their battered mothers have a place for both therapy and recreation, where they can enjoy privacy amid surroundings better suited to their needs and more appropriate to their special requirements.

The Children's Room is a small, narrow space within the cramped confines of the WCCCPU at the seventh floor of the EAMC. But this tiny space can be considered a safe, friendly haven for children, air-conditioned, carpeted in bright blue and equipped with colorful tables and chairs, stuffed toys and educational material, and even a TV set and DVD player.

"Our counselors used to meet with children survivors in counseling rooms that were not designed with children in mind," said WCC executive director Sally Ojano. "(But) given the number of young survivors we talked with last year, we had to do something."

Fortunately, The Body Shop Philippines was looking for worthy projects to fund as part of the ongoing worldwide campaign called "Stop Violence in the Home," and thought the Children's Room was a worthy beneficiary.

BUT IT WASN'T just The Body Shop Philippines management that supported the fund-raising efforts for the Children's Room. The store decided to donate the entire sales profit from its Mint Lip Care Stick campaign (P50 of the P150 cost of each lipstick), as well as one day's profit-

FOR ALMOST A DECADE NOW, TAIWAN'S application to participate in the World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization's highest decision-making body, has been rejected year after year, such that the rejection has become sort of an annual ritual. Bearing in mind some recent developments of global import, the international community ought to pause and review the issue more thoroughly this year.

The WHO was established with lofty ideals. Like the International Committee of the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières, it is supposed to transcend national borders and political conflicts when promoting health for all mankind and when offering and extending assistance to all those who are suffering from illness.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) used to be a WHO member. As such, our nation benefited greatly from the organization's help. Malaria, to cite an example, was eradicated in Taiwan during that period, with the help of the WHO. However, following Taiwan's replacement by the People's Republic of China (China) at the United Nations in 1971, Taiwan was forced to leave the WHO. Taiwan has since transformed itself from a mere recipient of WHO assistance into a country in a position to contribute to the international health community. Between 1995 and 2004, the government of Taiwan donated \$230 million in humanitarian and medical aid to more than 90 countries. On the other hand, Taiwanese NGOs contributed another \$87 million in aid even as they operated health care projects in several countries.

In 1997, representatives from Taiwan's medical community visited the WHO headquarters in Geneva and, for the first time, requested that the organization abide by its constitution and look after the Taiwanese people's right to health.

More and more countries around the world are being affected by the avian flu epidemic, though

that the visit would be a success. We saw how teamwork really worked, she mused.

I sensed her saying this with some emotion, for until now the dynamic governor and her province's lone representative in Congress, Ezequiel Javier, still have to work as a team.

Below is the conclusion of Sigaw ng Bayan spokesperson Raul Lambino's reply to those who criticized his claim that over the past three weeks, the Sigaw website had received nine million hits. Some critics said his claim was a fake or an outright lie.

"Our access logs analyzer is a wonder in itself as it detects not only the IP addresses but also almost the exact locations of site visitors and writers, and many other details we cannot divulge for obvious reasons. We protect these private details about our visitors—including those whose only intention is to look for lapses and wreak havoc in the site—as much as we protect our own confidential particulars.

"As for the search engines yielding 'negative' replies to queries on the Sigaw term, this is either inaccurate or an outright lie. A simple search on www.webcrawlex.com will show that different search engines do show up results on the particular query. The layman must also be informed that search engines nowadays display different results for searches at different times. Meaning, a site may be on the No. 1 spot now, but at the bottom of page 1 results an hour later or totally gone from the top-ranked pages a day after. It's also elementary that search engines may take 10-12 weeks to index web pages.

"Obviously some professed bloggers can't accept the fact that the lowly people and those who suffer silently due to the state of affairs in this country would like to visit a site like www.sigawngbayan.com than their web or blog sites that are actually meant only for the elite. They must remember that there are more grassroots people than elitists in the Philippines. And most Filipinos are fed up with the fact that these elitists have lorded it over so much for so long a time in this nation—electronically or otherwise."

A room for children

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



and now chaired by Sr. Mary John Mananzan, the WCC is the first and only crisis center in the Philippines which offers a comprehensive range of crisis intervention services for survivors of gender-based violence. It also introduced and has since conducted nationwide training, on the "radical concept" of feminist counseling in the country.

Aside from managing the WCCCPU, the Crisis Center is also involved in training programs (mainly through the Raquel Edralin Tiglao Institute for Family Violence Prevention), research and documentation, policy advocacy and community organizing, crisis intervention and counseling, a referral and volunteers' network, as well as a temporary shelter.

NEXT weekend, May 27-28, Grupo Reposo will hold the Second Reposo Art and Music Festival, in conjunction with the annual celebration of Makati Day. Among the highlights of the Festival, which takes place along Reposo Street, since re-named Nicanor Garcia Street, which is fast becoming the "lifestyle" street of the metropolis, are a mural painting session (along the long wall of the PLDT compound), sculpture installations, performances by Coke Bolipata and the Youth Peace Symphonic Orchestra. There will be as well a street bazaar participated in by tenants of LRI Business Plaza as well as other establishments on the same stretch, including furniture and home accessory stores, boutiques, restaurants and bars.

It's no surprise that it was the management and tenants of LRI Business Plaza that spearheaded the Festival last year; for the Plaza is itself Reposo Street in microcosm. The complex, located in the former warehouse of Luzon Rattan Industries Inc., gathers furniture and lifestyle showrooms owned by both experienced and fledgling exporters, designers and manufacturers, antique shops, art galleries and studios, a spa, and two dining places: Caffe Caruso and Caffe Ricco Renzo.

As part of the Festival, all establishments at the LRI Business Plaza are offering discounts of up to 50 percent until the end of the month.

A win-win game for the world

COMMENTARY

Cheng Wen-tsang

However, for a decade now, Taiwan's requests for an observer status at the World Health Assembly have been completely ignored. Since its founding, the WHO's member-states have increased from around 50 to 192, among them Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Even the Order of Malta and the Palestine Liberation Organization have been given observer status. But democratic Taiwan, the world's 17th largest economy, remains excluded from this global health village.

A request to join the WHO is entirely legitimate and reasonable for a sovereign state such as Taiwan. According to the WHO Constitution, health is a fundamental right of every human being irrespective of political beliefs. The recent outbreaks of the enterovirus and SARS, which had serious impacts on the lives and health of Taiwan's people, have made it more imperative for Taiwan to seek the WHO's protection and become its member. Due to China's objection, however, most countries of the world have chosen to surrender to political pragmatism and to remain deaf to Taiwan's appeal.

Diseases know no boundaries and are unaffected by political posturing. Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO has prevented Taiwan from contributing to global health initiatives and has made it as well into a missing link in the global epidemic prevention systems. The exclusion is unfair to Taiwan and detrimental to world health.

More and more countries around the world are being affected by the avian flu epidemic, though

fortunately, to date, Taiwan has remained free of the disease. Nevertheless, as a transportation hub in the Western Pacific and because of its close interaction with the affected areas, such as China and Southeast Asia, Taiwan is constantly under threat.

But despite the health risk Taiwan faces, the WHO has been reluctant to offer assistance to Taiwan. Earlier this year, blindly following China's "one-China" rhetoric, the WHO even went so far as to assume that Taiwan was an area under China's administration and wrongly declared that the island-nation is an affected area. The false announcement dealt a severe blow to Taiwan's efforts at epidemic control and prevention and demoralized its government and private sector.

Taiwan has no intention to seek confrontation with China. Nevertheless, to safeguard its people's right to health, Taiwan needs to break through China's stubbornness in blocking Taiwan's participation in WHO meetings, activities, early warning network and cooperative programs for epidemic prevention.

With the World Health Assembly about to convene in Geneva, Taiwan calls on the international community to look carefully at the realities of Taiwan's isolation from the global health village and support its participation in the WHO.

The WHO, for its part, needs to modify its over-politicized position on Taiwan's entry into the WHO and to be more responsive to the Taiwanese's right to health. Instead of just being a zero-sum game in the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan's entry into the WHO would then become a win-win situation for all the countries in the world.

Cheng Wen-tsang is minister of the Government Information Office, Republic of China (Taiwan).

The good and the bad

I WILL BE BRUTALLY HONEST: I'M NOT HAPPY BEING Filipino. Everything seems like a misdeed waiting to happen when it's a Filipino I'm dealing with, and that's what I have to do every day.

I have been driving for one year, but my impatience already rivals that of someone who is on the road from the moment he wakes up. You go straight, keep to your lane, singing with the radio, and then a motorcycle, a car or even a truck cuts you, with just an inch to spare.

Out driving one day, I saw a car being stopped by a police officer for violating the color coding "Good job," I was about to say to myself, but then the driver rolled down his window, said something to the policeman and was waved off quickly. No cash changed hands, but no license was taken either.

A few kilometers down the road, the same car was pulled over again by another traffic officer. Again, the window was rolled down, and the policeman waved the driver off. All I could do was scratch my head.

Almost all of us make stops at fast-food chains. They are usually jam-packed and noisy. Making errors or forgetting what was ordered is commonplace probably all over the world. But here, the crew people who get it wrong are the ones who are pissed at the customers, and some of them don't even try to hide it. Day after day, I feel my respect for my countrymen slipping away.

One day, my mom and I decided to eat breakfast in the Greenhills area. We finished eating, paid the bill, and left. But when we got home, my mom's face suddenly turned pale with panic. She had left her bag with a big sum of money in it.

The drive back to the restaurant was a tense one, with a thousand negative scenarios popping in our heads. I hoped for the best and prepared for the worst.

When we reached the restaurant, we were greeted by one of the most welcome sights we had ever seen: A waiter smiling in recognition and promptly leading us to the office where the bag was being kept. We were told that they had opened the bag to look for an ID and our contact number or address. They saw what was inside, and still returned it!

I felt very good not only because we got back mom's bag but also because of what it taught me. In times like ours, I would have understood if they took the money. Living is not easy for most of us, and returning that bag was for me an extraordinary demonstration of honesty and character.

When we left the restaurant, a car was speeding toward me, going the wrong way. Moments later, another car gave way for me at the parking ticket booth. The good and the bad, coming one after the other.

It took just one act of kindness for me to believe in my countrymen again. I remember one Bible story where God told a prophet He would save a town if he could find just 10 good people there. The Philippines, I think, has much more than that.

Karen Calilung, 21, finished journalism at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and is currently taking up law.

Lamb chops

Abigail S. Ong

WHEN AN AUNT AND HER HUSBAND MIGRATED TO Michigan more than 20 years ago, our family kept mum about it. We were very happy when they landed very good jobs (my uncle is a scientist of some sort and my aunt worked her way up the US banking industry). Good for them, my family thought, the States will give them a better future. And when we were little kids, my sister and I anticipated their rare visits, because that meant we'd be getting lots of gummy bears and chocolates and the latest toys.

Then another aunt of mine went to Canada with her family. From the pictures she sent us, we toured their new, big and modern house, with a garden we could never have seen anywhere in Manila.

We were also told that my cousin got cured of his asthma in Canada. My sister and I rejoiced for him, even as we knew we would have to bear the same affliction while we lived in Michigan.

My family never seriously thought of emigrating anywhere. And we probably never will. My father, who is a pure Chinese (he doesn't even have an English name) is a very nationalistic individual. He is passionate about staying in the Philippines, "dreaming the impossible dream," and "lighting one candle in his own dark space."

I grew up watching Ninoy Aquino documentaries, reading Ninoy Aquino biographies and editorials, and discussing current events over dinner. While I know that the grass is greener in other parts of the world, I grew up stubbornly believing that my feet should be firmly planted on native ground—even if the brown earth shows signs of famine.

Recently, my Canada-based aunt had a proposal for my sister and me: Go to Canada and work as domestic helpers for two years and then petition for your parents. That's the surest way to have a better future, she said.

To me, that advice came as a shock. I recalled my credentials, starting with my education at the University of the Philippines, my earlier academic awards and the work experience I had chalked up. After all that, was I supposed to end up as a domestic helper just so I could live in Canada?

After my beaten ego cooled down, however, I thought of how hard life can be in this country. I might occasionally enjoy a P100 cup of coffee inside a shop frequented by the elite, but across the street there are scores of vendors darkened by the heat of the sun and bowed by the burden of living who cannot make P100 a day. Then I thought of the many young Filipino professionals—competent, driven, but with their eyes gone dry from looking for a good job that would allow them to help their families. They work all day but rarely get to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They dream about having a car, a house, a healthy and happy family, and a few leisure trips here and there, but will they ever get their wishes?

There are sheep that refuse to put their woolly heads between the fences to get a view of the lush hills on the other side. Sadly, they usually end up as lamb chops.

Abigail S. Ong, 23, works as a researcher for QTV Channel 11.

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Outdated views on bicameralism

IN QUOTING JOSE E. ROMERO, Manuel L. Quezon III just showed how outdated his views are. ("A unicameralist on bicameralism," PDI, 5/11/06)

Obviously, Romero's claim that better candidates get to be elected if they are voted by a larger constituency was made long before Jinggoy Estrada, Lito Lapid and Bong Revilla made it to the Senate. His observation on

the "limited influence" of money in a national election was made well before Jamby Madrigal and Mar Roxas won their Senate

My beef with the way senators are elected today is not that they are elected by the entire electorate but that they do not have to top the election to gain office. All they have to do is make it to 12th place.

In essence, one doesn't need to prove that he or she is the most qualified person to become a senator. He only has to be adequately famous (or rich). In fact, I dare Mico III to run for the Senate in 2007. With his name alone, I guarantee him a spot in the top three, just below Kris Aquino and Cory Quirino.

—ROGELIO DIMACULANGAN, rogeliodimaculangan@yahoo.com

We need Cha-cha primers to educate our people

PLEASE ALLOW US TO REACT TO the story that came out in the May 12, issue of the INQUIRER alleging that tons of Cha-cha primers were being printed by the Philippine Information Office (PIA) and the National Printing Office (NPO).

Here in Baguio, I have yet to see a copy of a Cha-cha primer being circulated by an agency of the government.

Granting for the sake of argument that both the PIA and NPO

printed those primers, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that because the proposal to amend the Constitution is a program of the Arroyo administration.

It is a matter of obligation for the administration to educate the public about its programs and policies and, therefore, for the PIA and NPO to print those primers as part of their job. No less than the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has acknowledged

the need to educate the people on the issue as it urged the government to undertake a massive information campaign.

Why make an issue out of the printing of those primers when they are just primers and therefore not campaign materials to coerce the people into supporting Cha-cha? Please send those primers to us here in Baguio.

—RAMON GERONIMO, rger@yahoo.com

Opportunities in US for good, intelligent doctors

DR. CZARINAH PAGAY ("The doctor is out," PDI, 4/29/06) should have no difficulty coming to the United States as a doctor, nor as a nurse. If she does come as a nurse, I suspect she will not be a nurse for a long time.

Most of the doctors who turned

to nursing to seek employment here come with the thought of taking their qualifying exams for residency programs in the United States. The exams are expensive, but as soon as the doctors start making money as nurses, they take the qualifying exams and

pass with little difficulty.

Residency programs are available for good doctors from the Philippines and elsewhere, and Pagay appears to be an intelligent

—NAPOLEON S. MAMINTA, M.D., nsnmaminta@yahoo.com



Contraceptives: not the only way

AMANDO DORONILA AUTOMATICALLY assumes that a drop in the population growth rate is due to contraception. This reflects a certain attitude toward human behavior that only through contraceptives can people regulate the size of their family. ("A silent rebellion against the Church," PDI, 5/12/06)

Unlike coercive government population programs, the Church recognizes the right of a couple to determine the size of their family. What the Church opposes is the use of artificial methods of birth control, many of which ignore sex's vital, life-generating function and stem from the objective of reducing sex to mere pleasure. To do this is to demean something truly awesome—and this has clearly led to many undesirable social outcomes.

This is what the Church is saying. It is a message that is supposed to remind us of our dignity as human beings—a message that is being drowned in the cacophony of materialism and sensualism.

—MICHAEL MAPA, mikemapa@yahoo.com

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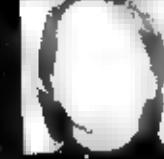
for her stories on Gen. Carlos Garcia and Lt. Col. George Rabasa

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INQUIRER Visayas

German educates through shock, awe

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

WHILE MOST PEOPLE adorn their houses with huge jars or ornamental plants, a German who has lived in Iloilo City for 31 years decorates his with a hair-raising 25-foot stuffed anaconda coiled on a piece of dried wood.

Another stuffed animal—a reddish brown, hairy barrel-shaped and beady-eyed wolly tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*)—is on the second floor of his house at 113 Seminario St. in Jaro District.

The house owner is Martin Stummer, a 66-year-old world traveler and former adventure tour operator who had lived in the Amazon for nine years.

He said the stuffed animals were on display because people these days needed to be shocked into appreciating the importance of preserving the environment and the wildlife living in it.

"My idea was to open a small museum for educational purposes and give scientific explanation for these stuffed animals, especially because children have to be motivated to fight for nature and the kingdom of plants and animals which are so endangered in the Philippines," said Stummer.

The mere question of where the stuffed animals came from sets off the round native of Bavaria, Germany into a rousing lecture on the importance of preserving the habitats of wildlife, allaying concerns that the stuffed animals were for educational purposes and not caught for game.

The anaconda, Stummer said, was a gift from friends—members of the Shuar tribe of the Amazon jungle who killed the big-bellied snake on suspicion that it swallowed one of their children.

The mountain tapir, an endangered species that looks like a cross between an oversized hog and an anteater, was a remnant of his work for zoological societies in Europe and the United States.

Stummer then segues into an impassioned defense of Philippine forests.

Destruction

The German pointed out that from his first visit to the country in 1975 up to his semi-retirement three years ago, the forests had been diminished to dangerous levels.

"In 1975 onwards, anywhere in the remote areas, land or sea, I saw only destruction. The criminal loggers, czars and cronies under Ferdinand Marcos massively destroyed the remaining forests," said Stummer.

"The Church-obedient Filipinos who thought they had a mandate from God to produce children by the dozens had these children ending up as *kaingineros* (slash-and-burn farmers) penetrating through the logging trails and into the forests to complete the destruction of the cronies of Marcos."

Stummer, who used to operate Nagara Island Resort before encountering marriage problems with his Ilongga wife two years ago, leafed through pictures of the forests and logging op-



GERMAN adventurer Martin Stummer poses with a stuffed South American Monkey Eating Eagle with a stuffed monkey caught in its claws at his home in Jaro district.

PHOTOS BY HAZEL P. VILLA

erations while conducting adventure tours in the Sierra Madre and Surigao del Sur in the 1970s and 1980s.

He had visited Palawan more than 25 times until the late 1990s and claimed to see logging tracks moving deeper and deeper into the forests.

"There are no more substantial forests in Cebu, Leyte and Bohol, whose Chocolate Hills have been denuded long before I came to the Philippines," said Stummer.

He added that when he first came to the country in 1975 to check out its possibilities as an adventure tour destination, he was pleasantly surprised by the openhearted hospitality of the Filipinos but "shocked at the state of the environment."

Change of heart

Stummer's reaction was understandable. He was only 23 when he lived in South America for nine years from 1963 to 1972 and was used to the untouched and lush vegetation of the Amazon jungle.

He was also basking in the recognition of being the first to bring woolly tapirs to be kept in a European zoo, specifically the Frankfurt Zoo on March 14, 1968.

The record of this feat of bringing a male and female tapir captured in Ecuador, south of the Cotopaxi Volcano, is in a yellowed cutout of the International ZooNews dated May 1968, Vol. 15, No. 2.

The stuffed animals in Stummer's house are also testimony to his change of heart when it comes to animal conservation.

When in his late 20s and seeing the

Amazon tribes catching the tapirs, monkeys, wild boars and other wildlife for game or for food, he got in touch with directors of zoological gardens who suggested that it would be in the interest of rare species to collect pairs of males and females and ship them to their premises for study and breeding.

The scientists reasoned out that if these animals would become extinct in their original habitat, there would be surviving species in the zoological gardens.

"I soon realized in my later years that this concept of international scientists operating zoological gardens was wrong," said Stummer.

"It is not possible to release the offspring of animals raised in captivity because they have lost their ability to survive. I believe that you can only save rare animals if you protect their environment," he added.

He lamented that with the rate Philippine forests were going, the Philippine Monkey Eating Eagle in Mindanao would soon become extinct because its forest habitat was shrinking due to human abuses.

Saving the forest

A staunch critic of any Philippine administration that does not strongly implement environmental laws, Stummer offers three approaches to preserve Philippine forests.

First, the government should be free from corruption and have an iron-fist in implementing existing environmental laws and "create much tougher penalties for violators and infuse tens of billions of pesos to facilitate the implementation of these laws with the Armed Forces of the Philippines using its facilities to apprehend illegal loggers, and polluters of the sea."

"If the political will fades, I would suggest that we have to go to the roots of the problem by prioritizing environmental issues in all school levels and make environment a core issue in the curriculum," said Stummer, explaining his second approach.

At the risk of declaring "environmental bankruptcy of the nation," he said it was time to cry for help from environmental groups abroad and request them to come to the aid of the Philippines with moral and financial support. This is his third approach.

Stummer could go on and on about ways to save the Philippine environment but would momentarily stop when asked about the other stuffed animals in his living quarters such as the South American Monkey Eating Eagle that he got dead from a hunter in 1969.

He also showed off the preserved skin of a jaguar encased in plastic which, he said, was a gift from a certain Chief Eugenio of the Cofan tribe in 1971 when he invited Stummer to be the godfather of his newly born child.

Members of the Cofan tribe shot jaguars to get the cat's teeth, which they use as decorative necklaces, a sample of which Stummer also displays together with many other such necklaces made from the teeth of other animals.

Elsewhere at Stummer's house are posters of endangered Philippine species, photos of his trips to the

Amazon, Papua New Guinea, the Trobriand Islands, Sierra Madre and other exotic places in the world.

The common thread in these pictures and memorabilia is man in relation to his environment.

While patrons of a restaurant on the ground floor, his close friends and classmates of his three sons have seen the "mini-wildlife museum," the semi-retired adventure tour operator and environmentalist said visits had been cut off for the moment as he had to put his personal affairs in order.

He said his environmental work on Nagara Island, as well as other advocacy, had to be temporarily placed on the sidelines. He spends much time in court, claiming that his attempts to separate from his wife is putting his life in danger.

A picture of a shrunken human head catches this writer's fancy. Stummer then went off to explain lengthily but this time about the cultural peculiarities of the Shuar tribe whose forefathers were feared headhunters who chopped off the heads of their enemies and reduced them to shrunken pieces.

In the same breath, he explained the connection between Shuar culture and the Amazon environment.

No matter how much the topic had changed, the nature lover brought back one's attention to the environment by shocking one with some other preserved thing or a ghoulish picture, or awe one with blown-up images of stunning flora and majestic animals from his many adventures.

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Pact with MNLF lacking, says OIC

COTABATO CITY—THE PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has not been implemented in full, according to the head of a team sent by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to the country.

The OIC brokered the peace agreement, which the Ramos administration and MNLF chair Nur Misuari signed in 1996. This prescribed the establishment of an expanded Moro region, the integration of MNLF combatants into the military and the police and assistance to rehabilitate war-torn areas in Mindanao, among others.

The expansion of the Moro region failed after a plebiscite was held in August 2001. Only five provinces and one city voted to be included in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) instead of the envi-

sioned 14 provinces and nine cities.

"The treaty has not been fully implemented," Ambassador Sayed Kassam El-Masry told government and MNLF officials during dinner hosted by ARMM Gov. Zaldy Amatuan on Thursday evening.

But El Masry quickly pointed out that both the government and the MNLF failed to come up with mechanisms for the implementation of all the provisions of the peace agreement.

He did not specify which provisions were not implemented but added the

matter should be tackled during the RP-MNLF-OIC tripartite meeting to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in July.

"We have to sit down and resolve how to implement the accord fully," El-Masry said.

Earlier, MNLF secretary general Muslimun Sema gave a rating of four to the implementation of the agreement on a scale of 1-10.

"I would like to maintain our position that the peace agreement has not been implemented religiously," Sema said in a radio interview here.

National peace adviser Jesus

Dureza told the visiting OIC envoys that the Arroyo administration is determined to address the root causes of the peace and order problems in Mindanao.

He said the country's bid for an observer status in the OIC would galvanize the government's efforts to help war-torn communities in Mindanao.

El-Masry declined to comment on the Philippines' bid for an observer seat in the influential organization.

The MNLF, led by Nur Misuari, continues to represent Philippine Muslims in the 57-nation pan-Islamic grouping that counts oil-rich countries Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Indonesia as members.

In Panama, Sultan, acting Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero approved the suspension of military operation (Somo) to allow MNLF leaders to attend the scheduled consultation with the OIC team today.

Among those expected to show up is Ustadz Habib Malik, who figured in two of the bloodiest clashes in the island-province in 2005.

Edwin Fernandez and Julie Alipaka and Jeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

Trams in Benguet eyed

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform has proposed the establishment of trams in vegetable-producing towns in Benguet as an alternative to farm-to-market roads.

DAR Cordilleran Rector Renato Navata said DAR has identified the farming towns of Atok, Mankayan and Kibungan as sites for the trams. He said the agency has proposed the project to the National Economic Development Authority because farm-to-market roads could not be built in many vegetable-producing areas in the Cordillera due to the region's rugged terrain.

The tramline, with a proposed budget of P43 million, would help farmers transport their produce faster, he said.

Desiree Culuza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Livestock production down

LEGAZPI CITY—Livestock production in Albay declined by at least 4 percent in the first quarter this year with livestock farmers concerned over the lack of seed capital. Provincial veterinarian Jose Losa Jr. debunked bird flu as a cause of the decline saying "everything has been looked into to ensure a bird-flu-free area." He noted, however, a potential growth in the industry in terms of land, technology and human resources. Since 2004, there has been an annual increase of 25 percent or 66,519 heads of swine and poultry shipped out of Albay.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Organic fertilizer test

CITY OF CALAPAN—Ten pilot areas in the parishes of San Lorenzo and Pinamalay in Oriental Mindoro have started producing bio-organic fertilizer using locally produced indigenous microorganism. The Lingkod Buhat Program under the Hapag ng Pamilyang Mindoreño of the Diocesan Commission on Service-Apostol provides technical assistance.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Calapan dike fixed, says gov

CITY OF CALAPAN—The 1.4-kilometer protection dike and rechanneling of Bucaya River have been completed by the provincial government, according to Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panairan during a press conference. The Department of Budget and Management has also released since January 15 percent, or P9 million, for the gabion armoring of the 2-km dike in Villa Cerveza, Victoria town, 840 meters of which had been finished, he said. "Without these undertakings, Calapan could have been submerged during Typhoon 'Calyoy' because flood waters were 1.5 meter higher than the December 2005 flooding. The dike was meant to divert the water flow from Ibulu and Aglibang rivers to Bucaya River in Calapan."

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

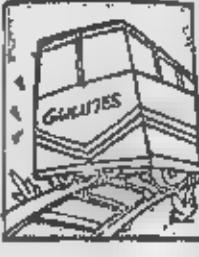
Mangyan grading system

SAN JOSE Occidental Mindoro—Jodilyn Lumewig, 15, a Taabuhid Mangyan graduate of Paaralang Angkop sa Katulubong Kultura (Parmana Ka) in the mountainous Barangay Danilog passed the Department of Education's alternative learning test. This qualifies her for college studies after three years of lessons at Parmana Ka. "This is a validation of our non-graded system where we count not the number of years spent in school but the mastery of skills expected to be achieved in various learning areas," said Sr. Arista Bautista, FMM, directress of Parmana Ka. DepEd earlier recognized the school for its culture and community-based curriculum.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Japanese scholarship desks

THE JAPAN Information and Culture Center (JICC) of the Embassy of Japan will open the Japanese Government Scholarship Inquiry Desk at Japan's consular offices in Davao on May 23, from 9 a.m. to noon and 2-4:30 p.m. at the Mindanao International College in Davao City. Free counseling services will be offered at the Inquiry Desk to help applicants select scholarship categories and prepare for scholarship-related exams and interviews. For details, call (032) 231-7321 or 22 (Cebu); (082) 233-0018 (Davao); (02) 551-5710 local 2315 and 2317 (Pasay City).



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RESIDENTS of a land owned by the Davao Medical Center start moving out their belongings as their homes were demolished after they lost their battle in court.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PI MINDANAO BUREAU

100 families evicted from Davao hospital property

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST 100 families living on land owned by the Davao Medical Center (DMC) in Bajada District have been evicted following a long running legal battle with the government.

On Friday, a demolition team from the city engineer's office started tearing down the houses and small eateries inside the land, which is adjacent to the DMC, amid protests from the occupants.

Many of those displaced by the demolition have been living in the area for more than 20 years already.

The DMC management had long wanted to evict the occupants and has actually managed to secure a demolition order from the court last year.

However, the occupants applied for a temporary restraint-

ing order (TRO) arguing they should not be abruptly removed from the area and should be given ample time to find a relocation site. Judge Silverio Mandalape of the Municipal Trial Court, Branch 3, issued the TRO in January last year.

Relocation site

Court Sheriff Philip Betil said it has been over a year now since the occupants asked for a TRO but they did not find a relocation site.

The city government earlier found a relocation site in Barangay Baute, also in Buhangin District.

But some councilors were opposed to the idea, because it was allegedly too expensive for the city government.

This prompted Mayor Rodrigo

Duterte to scrap the deal because of what he said was "too much politics."

Recently, the City Housing Office announced it has found another site in Tigatio District but the DMC occupants rejected the offer.

No longer interested

Cesar Daraya, CHO chief, said the DMC occupants told his men last week they were no longer interested.

Lenida Alas who represents the occupants, said they filed a motion for reconsideration when the TRO expired but the decision did not come on time.

She also said they were ready to leave the place provided that the DMC management could give them a valid reason why they were being re-

moved.

Alas said abruptly leaving the area would mean the loss of livelihood for most of them.

Demolition

"I've been here for the past 26 years and I have sent my children to school through my small eatery," she said as the demolition team began dismantling the structures.

"We are ready to give this back to the DMC because this lot is not ours, but give us due process," Dwina Flores, another occupant who lived in the area for the past 20 years already, said.

Dr Gerardo Cunanan, DMC chief declined to comment on the demolition. Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau



ZAMBRANO/PD/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
PORTABLE HOMES
Bamboo huts are displayed near a public market in San Carlos City, Pangasinan. The huts are being sold from P18,000 to P35,000 each.

Disaster preparedness tops agenda of workshops, training in S. Leyte

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—AS THE RAINY season arrives, several disaster preparedness training and workshops are to be separately held in disaster-prone Southern Leyte.

On Sunday, a 15-day disaster preparedness training will start in Libagon town, Southern Leyte, which will be participated in by 10 persons each from the disaster-prone towns of Libagon, Pintuyan, San Francisco and San Ricardo on Panaon Island. The training is sponsored by Plan Philippines that is based in Sogod town.

It can be recalled that on Dec. 19, 2003, landslides occurred in Libagon, San Francisco and San Ricardo towns, killing around 150 people.

On May 25 to 26 this year, another disaster preparedness training that will focus on digitized map readings particularly

on geohazard areas will also be held in the province, sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and in coordination with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), headed by Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lleras, has yet to identify the venue and participants of this two-day training, according to the Philippine Information Agency based in Maasin City.

On June 13 to 15, a Community-based Disaster Management Training would be conducted in Bontoc town, to be participated in by at least three persons from each of the town's barangays.

Among those to be discussed in this three-day training are disaster cycle, public awareness, hydrological hazard, and evacuation management.

A workshop on participatory rural appraisal that include hazard

and mapping, Venn diagram and the seasonal calendar would also be held.

According to PIA-Maasin, these training programs were scheduled by the PDCC in coordination with the Provincial Disaster Management Office, which is tasked with training disaster preparedness management and is composed of seven men who are experts in swimming, rappelling, first aid, among other disaster preparedness skills.

When tropical storm "Caloy" hit Eastern Visayas last week, a landslide isolated five barangays in Sogod, Southern Leyte. Four other barangays in Sogod town also became isolated due to a flood in the area.

A rapid geohazard assessment survey conducted recently by the MGB in Southern Leyte showed that most of the province's 497 barangays were susceptible to floods and landslides.

Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern

Visayas Bureau

NOTHING FOLLOWS -

Villagers flee as MILF gunmen lay claim to land

MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO

—With their farm animals, belongings and children in tow, dozens of families moved out of their homes when gunmen belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) stormed Barangs Rangabanan and Baliki here.

Mayor Romeo Arafa said he already mobilized social and health workers to attend to the needs of the evacuees.

Arafa said the villagers started to move out on May 11 when about 50 MILF rebels occupied Baliki and fired indiscriminately. The rebels moved to nearby Rangabanan.

Arafa said the villagers did not want to be caught in the crossfire if the military comes in.

Supt. Chino Mamuram, Mid-Sayap police chief, said they tried to enter the village but they were fired upon.

"We cannot fire back because of the existing ceasefire agreement. So, we have to withdraw," he said.

The government and the rebel group have signed a truce in 2001 as international efforts to resolve the last of the serious Moro rebellion stepped up.

The ceasefire is being monitored by the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT), a body organized by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mamuram said members of the IMT have already visited Rangabanan and, as soon as they left, the rebels started firing their guns again.

He said the police were waiting for the recommendation of the truce monitoring team to solve the problem, which has been traced to a land conflict.

A resident said the rebels were claiming a 40-hectare titled land in Baliki as their ancestral domain.

In Maranog, Maguindanao, at least 21 MILF members yielded to authorities claiming they grew tired of waging war.

against the government.

Bataga Tamaway, alias Commander Bataga, an MILF field commander operating in Banisilan, North Cotabato, said the dream of living a peaceful life and becoming productive citizen prompted them to surrender.

"Commander Bataga's decision was a noble one," Brig. Gen. Eduardo Gurrea, chief of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade, said.

Bataga and his men turned over firearms in exchange for financial assistance under the government's Baulk-Baul program.

Earlier, the Armed Forces suspended military operations against so-called renegades of the MILF out of respect for the arrival of a team from the Organization of the Islamic Conference that was checking the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front and the government.

The OIC team flew to Cotabato City Thursday and has started its task of assessing the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Jesus Dureza, national peace adviser, said the team had visited MNLF chair Nur Misuari before they flew to Mindanao. It was not clear what they talked about.

Misuari, who is facing rebellion charges following the bloody uprising of his followers in Sulu and Zamboanga a couple of years ago, has been staying in New Manila, Quezon City after a local court granted his request for an extended furlough.

Dureza said he was expecting the OIC team to find the implementation of the accord in order.

But Corabato City Mayor Musaum Sema, MNLF secretary general, gave a rating of four to the implementation of the agreement based on a scale of 1-10. Julie Akpala, Charlie Senase, Edwin Fernandez and Jeffrey Matien, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ilocos execs back Charter change bid

LAOAG CITY—ADVOCATES OF the move to amend the 1987 Constitution have found support from Ilocos Norte mayors, vice mayors and councilors who attended an orientation and consultation at the provincial capitol auditorium on Wednesday.

The Ilocos consultation was convened as the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) ended its nationwide campaign to push Charter changes.

The officials who attended the event were led by Vice Gov. Windell Chua, Sarat Mayor Corazon Abad, also president of the Ilocos Norte Mayors' League, and Mayors Michael Parianas (La Union City), Bonifacio Clemente (Paoay) and Anunciacion Pagdilao (Pinili).

Other mayors sent their representatives.

"Your presence indicates your concern to our country while [your support] will help give shape to the country's future," Abad said as she welcomed around 100 participants, mostly councilors and local government workers from the 22 towns and this capital city.

Organizers focused the discussions on the need for constitutional reform, peoples' initiative and the strength of the parliamentary form of government.

"Our country is divided [on the Cha-cha issue] and it is timely that local government sectors must be involved in the process so that they may have a full grasp of the issue," Chua said.

He said he was supporting moves to amend the Constitution.

"But I do not favor the process in doing it because it is being railroaded. It is up to us to enlighten our constituents about key issues," he said.

The Malacañang-backed Charter change hopes to gather support by initiating a signature drive under the peoples' innaugue mode of amending the 1987 Constitution.

Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 - (632) 920-6448

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEATH
1. Carolina Cortiza	Guiacon	Primo Ariti SS#03-1971893-3	September 6, 2005
2. Roberto Austria Mary Lou Austria Evangelie Austria Vergelito Austria	4053 West Tapinoc, Olongapo City	Antonio Austria SS#02-0297258-3	December 10, 2004
3. Mangos Cadayon	Unknown	Daniel E. Bahiyut SS#03-3397531-0	April 11, 2006
4. Cantid Quindio	Unknown	Julio Buena SS#06-0492533-2	October 3, 2001
5. Lolita Camayay Henry Jr.	508 G.A. Pascual St., Navotas, N.M.	Henry A. Camayay SS#03-5053660-3	October 19, 2005
6. Asuncion Cayton Raymond Cayton	87 A. Ipo St., Brgy. Lungsod, Quezon City	Romulo Cayton SS#03-3311324-0	February 24, 2006
7. Juana, Jenny & Feliciano Conzal II	Unknown	Roberto G. Conzal SS#03-1059889-2	March 16, 2003
8. Alice Delino	Malabki, M.M.	Antonio G. Cerna SS#03-3640200-5	July 31, 2003
9. Avilaine Ramirez	Compostela, Capiz Province	Edardo D. Dagalan SS#08-0436103-2	October 30, 2005
10. Eduardo E. Puquingos	197 B. Moreno St., Sta. Ana, San Mateo, Rizal	Maria Delaviento SS#03-3241069-9	February 12, 2006
11. Myrna Dichoso Delasay	175 Sta. Filomena, San Pablo City, Laguna	Sesimando Embalo SS#03-2870081-0	January 1, 2006
12. Rosendo F. Dejesa	Unknown	Vivian C. Dejesa SS#03-7011497-2	March 7, 2006
13. Cesear Eugenia	Unknown	Edardo E. Eugenio Jr SS#03-4813376-5	March 13, 2006
14. Cecilia Admitio Gelito	Unknown	Adriano Galateo SS#03-1749404-0	July 19, 2005
15. Juanita Rigm	Unknown	Helen Rigm SS#01-1285071-3	August 22, 2005
16. Luz Jagonesa Avios Jagonesa Eduardo Jagonesa Agnes Jagonesa	Unknown	Rolando Jagonesa SS#03-2836583-0	November 7, 2002
17. Vilma Fo Rances Tabarano	Unknown	Cesar C. Jordin SS#04-1-880294-4	February 28, 2006
18. Remedios Remolde	Potapor, Laig, Apalit	Olimpio A. Jurado SS#08-0073207-3	January 26, 2006
19. Luis Mendoza	Sta. Cruz, Panganiban, Camiguin Unknown	Francisco Madenca SS#01-0476526-7	June 11, 2001
20. Enrieta Demetrio	Unknown	Elena Mendoza SS#03-2927020-9	February 4, 2006
21. Nancy A. Fuentes	Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City	Reynaldo Mendoza SS#03-1-804758-5	February 11, 1999
22. Catalina Gorin	7-C VICHAN SHM, Santolan Rd., Mandaluyong, Metro Manila	Luklao Nagpao SS#03-7191280-0	June 20, 2001
23. Ramon Quintales, Sr.	Unknown	Romilo Quintales SS#73-2183061-5	September 30, 2005
24. Erlinda Ramos</			

**STATE VISITOR FROM AFRICA**

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes to Malacañang the president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, on Friday. The African leader is here on a four-day state visit. The two leaders later witnessed the signing of three agreements on energy and economic cooperation between the two countries. The oil-rich Central African nation is host to an estimated 3,000 Filipino overseas contract workers.

15TH JULY

'Da Vinci' murder mystery makes killing on opening day

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

IN SPITE OF MIXED REVIEWS from foreign critics, the controversial Hollywood murder mystery "The Da Vinci Code" made a killing at the local box office on its opening day.

As of 3 p.m. last Thursday, "Da Vinci" posted P3 million at the tills.

By the end of the day, it earned P11.6 million in Metro Manila, according to an official statement sent by Columbia Pictures, the Philippine office of Sony Pictures Releasing, the distributor of "Da Vinci."

Mega Manila figures included theaters in major cities of neighboring provinces like Cavite and Pampanga, according to a studio source.

Beats MI-3 opening day

Nationwide, the film's first-day earnings in 116 theaters totaled P14.11 million, "the biggest non-weekend opening this year," according to Victor R. Cabrera, general manager of Columbia Pictures. "Da Vinci" beat the opening-day record set by the Tom Cruise-starrer "Mission: Impossible III" (only P10.1

million), although it was rated PG-13.

Columbia also asserted that "Da Vinci" broke three other records: the all-time highest opening day for an R-18 film in the Philippines; the biggest opening day for a Tom Hanks movie; and the second biggest opening day for a Columbia movie. The biggest was "Spiderman 2" with P23.1 million, and in third place was "Spiderman" with P9.72 million.

"It's a tremendous turnout and we couldn't be happier," Cabrera said in the same statement. "We'd like to thank the Filipino audience for keeping an open mind and theater exhibitors for standing by us."

Not in SM malls

SM malls, however, were not among the local cineplexes that showed "Da Vinci," as a result of the R-18 rating that the film had received from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) last Tuesday.

SM malls has a corporate policy not to show movies in their cinemas with R-18 or "For Adults Only" rating.

The Columbia statement acknowledged that SM comprises "40 percent of the country's cinemas."

An industry source said the distributor could have doubled its earnings if the movie had been shown in SM cinemas.

As a result of SM's ban on R-18 films, Columbia added more theaters in other cineplexes. "Gateway is showing it in eight of its 10 cinemas; Robinsons Place Manila in four; Glorietta in six; Rockwell Powerplant in five; and Shangri-La in four." The result was that participating theaters cashed in with bigger slices of the

film's total box-office pie," Cabrera pointed out.

Gateway highest gross

According to the statement, Gateway received the highest opening-day grosses with P1.16 million, followed by Robinsons Place Manila with P985,067; Glorietta IV, P967,830; Robinsons Galleria, P945,003; Rockwell Powerplant, P772,576; Shangri-La, P643,041; Festival Mall, 602,467; Greenbelt III, P586,436; and Eastwood, P426,008.

Ric Camaligan, first vice president of SM Leisure Inc., which operates SM Cinemas, told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday that SM did not regret its decision not to screen "Da Vinci."

"We cannot change our policy just because one controversial movie made money," Camaligan explained. "I'm hesitant to look at the financial angle [that SM malls may lose prospective business from people who are watching 'Da Vinci'] because we had already considered that aspect when we made our decision."

Controversy made it a hit

Camaligan observed that the "controversy was a big factor in the film's success" and he added that he wouldn't be surprised if "the movie's producer actually capitalized on the controversy."

Macie Imperial, director for Acquisitions and Marketing of Sky Films, concurred: "The controversy definitely helped promote the movie. It was an inexpensive way to publicize the movie. It was its [own] press release. It's human nature. The more you prevent people from watching it, the more they'd become curious and watch it."



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Editor Ester G. Dipasu

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Suspect in Parañaque twin murders nabbed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE POLICE ARRESTED ON Thursday the suspect in the killing of a 9-year-old girl and her grandmother in Parañaque City earlier this week.

The suspect turned out to be the son of one of the victims. Gilbert Banzuela was arrested in the house of his cousin, Eric Talon, in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.

Banzuela is the son of 54-year-old Zenaida, whose body was found with her nine-year-old niece, Geleen, inside their house at 17 President Quezon St., Monte Villa de Monsod in Barangay San Valle, Parañaque City, on Monday. But Banzuela, who lived in the same house, was nowhere to be found, which made the police believe that he was the primary suspect.

Talon called up the police after Banzuela reportedly admitted to him that he had killed his mother and niece. Parañaque police chief Ronald Estilles told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Estilles added that he immediately sent a team to Dagupan after receiving a call the other day from the city police chief, Supt. Ed Basbas, to take Banzuela into custody.

The suspect was brought back

to Parañaque at 2 a.m. yesterday. During questioning, Banzuela said he killed his mother when she refused to give him money.

"He said he also got fed up because his mother always locked him up in their garage," Estilles said, quoting Banzuela.

A follow-up investigation disclosed that Banzuela allegedly hit his mother with a metal pipe when she came to his room to serve his food at luncheon on Saturday.

Eyewitness

"Banzuela said he killed his niece because she saw what he did to his mother," Estilles added.

Initial reports said the suspect was suffering from a mental disorder because of a drug addiction problem. But the suspect seemed normal, according to Estilles. The girl's mother, Grace, also claimed that her brother was not suffering from a mental disorder.

"If he was mentally sick, he wouldn't have thought of cleaning up the mess at the crime scene," he said. The police, however, have yet to recover the pipe that the suspect allegedly used to kill the two victims.

Two counts of murder will be filed against Banzuela in the city prosecutor's office.

German trader arrested for duping online shoppers

Goods paid for but never delivered

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GERMAN BUSINESSMAN wanted in his country for 67 counts of large-scale money fraud, was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation in Dasmarinas, Cavite, last Wednesday for allegedly duping European clients using an Internet auction website.

Viktor Graff Kolenbach, 47, a native of Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, is now detained at the NBI jail and will be turned over to the Bureau of Immigration for summary deportation proceedings, according to NBI Interpol Division chief Claro de Castro Jr.

Investigation conducted by Special Investigator Pierre Lemuel Loyola showed that the German Federal Police in Cologne launched a manhunt for Kolenbach after the suspect allegedly defrauded European clients of as much as \$30,000 to \$50,000 euros (\$2.02 million to P3.37 million).

Kolenbach, who was based in



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Troisborth, Germany, from March 2002 to June 2004, offered various goods through Internet auctions without supplying the products, even after payments were made through banking and wire transfers.

When the German Federal Police found out that Kolenbach was using cellular phone numbers registered under a local network, they requested assistance from the NBI.

"The German law enforcers concluded that Kolenbach may have taken his illegal operations to the Philippines to avoid being arrested and prosecuted in Germany," De Castro explained.

He added that based on informa-

tion given by the BI, the suspect arrived in the country on April 26, 2005 and has been here since. "The subject had apparently decided to live in the country without acquiring the necessary legal permit from BI," the NBI official said.

De Castro said they received additional information from the German police that Kolenbach had fraudulently acquired 80,000 euros through money transfers between June and September 2005 by victimizing foreign clients on the Internet.

The NBI interpol agents were able to find out Kolenbach's Philippine address through his eBay account—an auction website on the Internet—which has now been suspended because of his alleged fraudulent activities.

The agents then placed under watch the house at City Homes Subdivision in Dasmarinas, Cavite, where the suspect was allegedly staying.

NBI and BI operatives arrested the suspect in his home last Wednesday after serving a decree of withdrawal issued by the German Embassy which immediately cancelled his passport.

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Undercover cops in schools

THE EASTERN Police

District will deploy undercover policemen in schools when classes open in the next few weeks. "We are planning to dep by police in civilian clothes in schools during the start of classes not only to protect students from robbers, snatchers but also from illegal drug pushers," Sgt. Elmer Escosia, EPD intelligence and investigation division chief, told the Inquirer.

Though he said the police had been launching operations against pushers, peddling of illegal drugs was still rampant in schools because of poverty. "The principal reason pushers engage in drugs is because they don't have other means to earn money," Escosia said. He added that his teams were monitoring critical areas like Barangay Welfareville in Mandaluyong City and Barangays Sto. Tomas, Pineda and Pinagbuhian in Pasig City. The EPD would be keeping an eye on at least 72 public and 82 private elementary schools, high schools and colleges in the cities of Marikina, Mandaluyong, Pasig and the town of San Juan.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

New freedom parks

NEED to vent your grievances? Proceed to the Malibay Plaza in Pasay City. The City Council has just passed an ordinance designating the plaza as a freedom park where people can freely assemble to hold protest actions. The ordinance was passed on third and final reading in compliance with the Supreme Court's order that all local government units must designate specific freedom parks in their areas. The councilors said the Malibay Plaza, which is located on E. Rodriguez Street in Barangay Malibay, just off EDSA, is the "most suitable place in the city for protesters to peacefully assemble and petition for redress of grievances." In Marikina, the city government has officially designated the Liwasang Bonifacio Park in Alabang as a freedom park. Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said rallyers may assemble at the park, but they should first get a permit from the local government.

Jocelyn R. Uy

50 homeless families

MORE than 50 families lost their homes in a fire that razed a community in Sta. Cruz, Manila, shortly after midnight yesterday. SPC1 Emmanuel Gaspar said the fire began around 12:56 a.m. at the fourth floor of Adelaida Pangilinan's house at 1281 Elias St. in the Sta. Cruz area. It was put out at 1:53 a.m. The fire quickly spread throughout the neighborhood and destroyed 25 shanties. Damage to property was estimated at about P400,000, Gaspar added. Nobody was reported injured during the incident, the arson investigator said. Margaux C. Ortiz

3 firms closed for pollution

By Blanche S. Rivera

LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT Authority has shut down three firms, including a popular family restaurant in Metro Manila, for illegally discharging waste water.

Cease-and-desist orders were served on Max's Restaurant in South Triangle, Quezon Avenue, ACLEM Paper Mills Inc. in San Pedro, Laguna, and several offices of the E. Malebanan Excavator and Plumbing Services, including its affiliate office, the Barn Plumbing Services Inc., all in Pasig City.

"Max's has been operating without a discharge permit and it failed effluent standards in all parameters," LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III said in a phone interview yesterday.

"Max's has been operating without a discharge permit and it failed effluent standards in all parameters," LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III said in a phone interview yesterday.

Two teams from the LLDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources served the closure orders on the three polluting firms Thursday afternoon.

"If they can serve customers without water, then fine, because we have sealed their water sources," Ynares said when asked if the order meant that the restaurant could no longer operate. The Inquirer called up the restaurant manager for comment several times yesterday but he had already left.

He added that he personally sealed two faucets in the restaurant which had been violating environmental regulations since 2003.

Max's owes the LLDA at least P1 million in fines for failing the effluent standards while ACLEM has been

fined around P1.3 million.

ACLEM Paper Mills, which the LLDA described as a persistent violator, has been served two CDOs since 1995, when it was first issued a notice of violation.

"They still operate when no one's looking, that's why we plan to file criminal charges against them," Ynares said.

Max's restaurant, on the other hand, has been trying to comply with the requirements but a sampling conducted two weeks ago showed it once again failed to meet the standards despite remedial measures.

Ynares said the company will not be allowed to operate until it has come up with a plan for the construction of a waste water treatment facility, including the cost and timetables for its operation.

The DENR, meanwhile, enforced the cease-and-desist order on the E. Malebanan Belen Excavator and Plumbing Services and Barn Plumbing Services offices in Pasig City.

The septic tank excavators were sanctioned for violating Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act when it drained sludge into a Pasig creek last week. The Pasig government last week shut down two offices of E. Malebanan in barangay Sta. Lucia following the incident.

The LLDA has started a crackdown on polluting firms within its jurisdiction as experts reported that the 90,000-hectare Laguna de Bay, the biggest inland body of water in the country, was "extremely stressed," and close to dying.

4 hurt in flyover accident

By DJ Yap

FOUR YOUNG MEN ABOARD A Honda Civic were seriously hurt on Thursday in Quezon City after their car rammed into a payloader, a vehicle used to move heavy materials.

The accident occurred at about 1:20 p.m. on the Katipunan flyover in front of Sta. Clara Church, traffic investigators said.

Karlo Martin Ramos, 17, was traveling southbound on Katipunan Avenue when he lost control of the wheel.

The car, with plate number UBK-862, hit the rear of the vehicle ahead of it, a Kawasaki payloader, according to a report by Traffic Sector 3 investigator SPO1 Llerma Valladolid.

The payloader, which was owned by the Quezon City government, was driven by Edgardo Santiago, 39, a heavy equipment operator.

The impact of the collision injured Ramos and his three passengers, Juan Paolo Tolentino, Peter Luis Ortega, and Andrew Ernest Mati, who were taken to the hospital for treatment.



HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

With summer nearly over and school set to open in a few weeks, a group of children and their parents enjoy a picnic at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

JOAN BONOCO



Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry 1 to Tower No. 112)

The proposed project is located in Batangas Province with an estimated length of 18.835 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor and materials, supplies tools and equipment and other incidents necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardware in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-05-RCOGWC5R-EG-00]

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of Three Million One Hundred Thousand (P3,100,000.00) being the Total Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of Primary DCV, Resistance Standard, Reference Multi-Meter and Thermo-Hygrometer. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM now invites potential Bidders to submit letter of intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry 1 to Tower No. 112). Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Electrical Works" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Electrical Works (Power Transmission and Distribution)." Bidders respectively have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the refurbishment of corroded overhead ground wire. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: June 8, 2006, 9:00 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works as required by sixty (60) working days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines in accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting June 19-23, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting June 19-23, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on June 26, 2006, 9:00 A.M. at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, July 12, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)

San Vicente, Batangas 4224

Mr. Ruben G. Castaño – BAC Chairman (02) 981-4676 to 78 local 4066; 4053

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Section I.

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of Primary DCV, Resistance Standard, Reference Multi-Meter and Thermo-Hygrometer

(Reference No.: PB060322-EL0039)

1. The National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board, intends to apply the sum of PhP 6,780,000.00 being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of Primary DCV, Resistance Standard, Reference Multi-Meter and Thermo-Hygrometer. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Primary DCV Delivery of the GOODS is required within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietors, organizations with at least forty percent (40%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting May 18, 2006 to June 22, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00). The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 8, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 P.M. of June 23, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check Manager [REDACTED] Irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	PhP 67,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	PhP 100,500.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	PhP 167,500.00
4. Foreign government guarantee [REDACTED]	PhP 6,780,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on June 23, 2006 / 2:00 P.M. at the Admin Conference Room, same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region

San Vicente, Batangas 4224

MMD Office, GF Transco Main Bldg.

Power Center, Ozamiz Ave., cor. BIA Road

Dasmariñas, Cavite

Tel. No. (02) 981-2235 / Fax No. (02) 922-0432

Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgt.) ARMANDO H. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

PDH - May 20 & 27, 2006

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

ened her with further bodily harm with a knife if she would not cooperate.

As a journalist and long-time police reporter, I've heard about or encountered incredible things or events. But Jeff's conviction for rape beats them

In fairness to Soriano, he inherited the case from Judge Maria Belen R. Liban who did not continue hearing the case after this corner kept criticizing her for pussyfooting.

I pointed out that Liban should have dismissed the rape case against Jeff outright after seeing his condition.

The case was filed by Bulacan Prosecutor Rita Gammarad.

What kind of judges and prosecutors do they have in Bulacan?

Logic would have dictated that the rape against a complete cripple like Jeff should have been dismissed.

A Pasay City Regional Trial Court judge allegedly goes to the Manila Pavilion hotel east no three times a week, a casino employee told me.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

A+1

Judge's slay spurs secularist backlash in Turkey



THOUSANDS attend the funeral of slain judge Mustafa Ozboyen outside Kocatepe Mosque in Ankara May 18. The funeral turned into a march in defense of secularism in mainly Muslim Turkey. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

UN panel: Close Gitmo

GENEVA—The United Nations committee against torture told the United States on Friday it should close any secret prisons abroad and the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba, saying they violated international law. The 10 independent experts, who examined the U.S. record at home and abroad, urged President George W. Bush's administration to "rescind any interrogation technique" that constituted torture or cruel treatment of foreign terrorism detainees. It cited use of dogs to terrify detainees, "water-boarding" which is a form of mock drowning and sexual humiliation. The United States "should ensure that no one is detained in any secret detention facility under its de facto effective control" and "investigate and disclose the existence of any such facilities," said the committee, which has moral authority but no legal power to enforce its recommendations. His lawyers argued successfully for years that a series of strokes had left the former dictator with irreparable brain damage and that he was not fit to stand trial.

Reuters

Fujimori leaves jail

SANTIAGO—Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, facing criminal charges in Peru, was released from Chilean jail on bail Thursday while courts review an extradition request from the Peruvian government. His release came after the Supreme Court decided he could be freed during the extradition review, expected to take another month. His release sparked concerns in Peru that Fujimori would flee, but the ex-leader denied that he would try to leave. "I came to Chile voluntarily," said Fujimori, who had unexpectedly arrived here from exile in Japan late last year. "(Leaving) is totally out of the question." The former two-term president paid \$2,800 bail for his release on condition that he remain in Chile pending extradition proceedings.

AP

On way to confirmation

WASHINGTON—Gen. Michael V. Hayden sought on Thursday to distance himself from the Pentagon and its role in prewar intelligence on Iraq, in an appearance that put him on track to win swift confirmation as the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In a confirmation hearing before the Senate intelligence committee, Hayden appeared in the pristine navy blue uniform he has worn for 36 years as an Air Force officer. But he repeatedly professed his independence from the Defense Department and its leadership, saying he had been "uncomfortable" with the work of a Pentagon intelligence office run by Douglas J. Feith, a former undersecretary of defense, which asserted in the months before the Iraq war that Iraq had established ties with al-Qaeda operatives in the Middle East. He also spoke candidly about his disagreements with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld about the Pentagon's control over a large part of America's annual intelligence budget.

NYT

Serious condition

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Indonesia's ex-dictator Suharto is in "serious condition" after surgery earlier this month, the country's president said Friday, after visiting him in the hospital. Suharto, who was ousted after 32 years in power in 1998 amid student protests and nationwide riots, had the surgery earlier this month to stem intestinal bleeding. Doctors said a CT scan on Thursday revealed two new blockages in his brain, but did not elaborate. The Indonesian government last week announced plans to drop charges against Suharto, who was indicted in 2000 on allegations of embezzling US\$600 million but has never seen the inside of a courtroom.

AP

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100 killed in Afghan violence

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—AFGHAN POLICE hunted for Taliban insurgents on Friday after two of the country's bloodiest days since the 2001 overthrow of the hardline Islamists.

About 100 people were killed in violence that began on Wednesday. It included a large-scale attack on a town in the southern province of Helmand and two suicide blasts in different parts of the country.

"We are hunting for them all over Mosa Qala district, to capture them or kill them," said Helmand's deputy governor, Amir Mohammad Akhundzada.

Hundreds of Taliban stormed Mosa Qala town on Wednesday evening and fighting raged for hours. Thirteen policemen and about 50 insurgents were killed, Akhundzada said.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks on foreign and Afghan government forces in recent months as thousands more Nato peacekeepers arrive in the country.

The US military says the Taliban are intensifying their insurgency to try to sap domestic support for the foreign forces. There will soon be nearly 40,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, the most since 2001.

Akhundzada said three policemen had been wounded in a clash with Taliban near Mosa Qala town late on Thursday and the Taliban were also believed to have suffered casualties.

But there were no other major incidents, he said.

Among the dead found after clashes on Thursday in Ghazni province, southwest of Kabul, was a provincial-level Taliban commander, said police chief Abdul Rahman Sarjang. He identified the commander as Qan Naeem.

Sixteen Taliban, three policemen and an intelligence official were killed in Ghazni on Thursday, officials said. A passer-by was killed in a suicide car-bomb attack on a US military convoy. One American was wounded. Reuters

War in Iraq was a grave mistake, says Italy premier

ROME—PREMIER ROMANO PRODI said Thursday the war in Iraq was a grave mistake but that Italy would remain on the front lines in the war against terror.

"We consider the war and occupation in Iraq a grave error that hasn't solved—but has complicated—the problem of security," Prodi said in his first address to the Senate as premier.

AP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS RFA (492-06-005)

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and local government units to strengthen a health policy process that will improve health sector performance. It is envisioned that the selected Recipient will provide assistance in improving the policy environment and financing of essential health services.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-8924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS RFA (492-06-006)

An International organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist public and private sector institution in the Philippines prevention and control of tuberculosis (TB) as well as address critical issues on emerging and reemerging infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-8924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS RFA (492-06-007)

An International organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and local government units to broaden the reach, improve the quality and sustain health promotion and communication to increase appropriate healthy behaviors and practices and consequently improve the health status of the Filipinos.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-8924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(POI May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS RFA (492-06-008)

An International organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and local government units in strengthening systems, commitment and support for essential health services such as family planning, maternal and child health, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, which will help the Regional Government, local governments and the communities in the ARMM Region to improve their health status in a sustainable way.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-8924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(POI May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Mexico, 4 LatAm nations condemn US fence plan

MEXICO CITY—THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF four Central American nations condemned US Senate plan to build hundreds of kilometers of triple-layered fence on the United States' southern border, saying it would not stop illegal immigration.

But although the top diplomats from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Mexico all slammed the proposal, they said their only action would be to make more declarations and send diplomatic notes.

In a joint news conference in Mexico City late Thursday, the five ministers said that building barriers is not the way to solve problems between neighboring nations.

"The position of Mexico and the other countries is that walls will not make a difference in terms of

the solution to the migration problem," said Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez.

On Wednesday, the US Senate approved a proposal to build 595 kilometers of triple-layer fencing along parts of the 3,200-kilometer border separating the US and Mexico.

In the same session, the Senate agreed to give many illegal immigrants a shot at US citizenship.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Jorge Briz said that a major immigration reform in the United States is the only way to stop the

human wave heading northward.

"All of us are looking for a comprehensive migratory regulation so that millions of Latin Americans can continue working in and supporting the United States economy," Briz said.

Earlier Thursday, Mexico's Foreign Relations Department sent a diplomatic note to the US State Department outlining the nation's concerns about the proposed barrier.

Honduran Foreign Minister Milton Jimenez said that he expected the five nations and other countries in South America and the Caribbean to issue a joint declaration on the matter soon.

The US House of Representatives approved plans to build hundreds more miles of fencing in December, sparking a wave of criticism from Latin American

leaders, with Mexican President Vicente Fox comparing such a barrier to the Berlin Wall.

Fox reiterated his criticisms on Thursday.

"Building walls, constructing barriers on the border does not offer an efficient solution in a relationship of friends, neighbors and partners," Fox said in the border city of Tijuana. "We will go on defending the rights of our countrymen without rest or respite. With passion we will demand the full respect of their human rights."

On the border with Arizona, bedraggled migrants who had been turned back by the border patrol said that more fences would not keep them from crossing but only make smugglers charge more money for the trip.

AP



TWO men visit a Virgin of Guadalupe shrine before they begin the journey from Sasabe, Mexico, to Sasabe, Ariz., walking through the desert May 18.

Is English US's 'national' or 'unifying' language? Senate debates hot topic

WASHINGTON—WHETHER ENGLISH IS AMERICA'S "national language" or its national "common and unifying language" was a question that dominated the Senate immigration debate.

The Senate first voted 63-34 on Thursday to make English the national language after lawmakers who led the effort said it would promote national unity.

But critics argued the move would prevent limited English

speakers from getting language assistance required by an executive order enacted under former President Bill Clinton. So the Senate also voted 58-39 to make English the nation's "common and unifying language."

"We are trying to make an assimilation statement," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of two dozen senators who voted for both English proposals.

Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe of

Oklahoma disputed charges that making English the national language was racist or aimed at Spanish speakers. Eleven Democrats voted for his measure.

Democratic Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado offered the alternative. The only Republican to vote solely for Salazar's "common and unifying" language option was Sen. Pete Domenici of Arizona, whose home state's constitution prohibits discrimination on basis

of inability to speak, read or write English or Spanish.

Both provisions will be included in an immigration bill the Senate is expected to pass and send to conference with the House, where differences will be resolved.

President George W. Bush, who often peppers his speeches with Spanish words and phrases, had little to say about the Senate votes

while visiting the Arizona-Mexico border. "The Senate needs to get the bill out," the president said.

Bush toured an unfortified section of the border in the Arizona desert Thursday, where he endorsed using fences and other barriers to cut down on illegal crossings. The Senate on Wednesday voted to put 595 kilometers of fences on the border.

Bush's border visit was part of his efforts to win over conserva-

tives balking at his support for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants and a new guest worker program.

Bush asked Congress for \$1.9 billion (euro1.5 billion) Thursday to pay for 1,000 Border Patrol agents and the temporary deployment of up to 6,000 National Guard troops to states along the Mexican border.

His request was not warmly welcomed by some key senators. AP

Americana: In the name of 'heaven'

By Jennifer Lee

IN 1999, THERE WERE ONLY eight newborn American girls named Nevaeh. Last year, it was the 70th-most-popular name for baby girls, ahead of Sara, Vanessa and Amanda.

The spectacular rise of Nevaeh (commonly pronounced na-VAY-uh) has little precedent, name experts say. They watched it break into the top 1,000 of girls' names in 2001 at No. 266, the third highest debut ever. Four years later it cracked the top 100 with

4,457 newborn Nevaehs, having made the fastest climb among all names since the government started keeping track of them more than a century ago.

Nevaeh, tucked between Madeline (69) and Evelyn (71), is not in the Bible or any religious text. It is not from a foreign language. It is not the name of a celebrity, real or fictional.

Nevaeh is Heaven spelled backward.

The name has hit a cultural nerve with its religious overtones, creative twist and fashionable final

"ah" sound. It has risen most quickly among blacks but is also popular with evangelical Christians, who have helped propel other religious names like Grace (ranked 14th) and Elijah (31st among boys' names) up the charts, experts say. By contrast, the name Heaven is ranked 245th.

The surge of Nevaeh can be traced to a single event: the appearance of a Christian rock star, Sonny Sandoval of POD, on MTV in 2000 with his baby daughter, Nevaeh. "Heaven spelled backward," he said.



This drawing shown by geologist Ismar de Souza Carvalho on May 18 at the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro, shows a Maniraptoran dinosaur. The drawing

was made from a fossilized fingernail found in Uberaba, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Carvalho says the Maniraptoran dinosaur is a significant find because it proves the transition of dinosaurs into birds. AP

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sayaw, Drama, Iba

Shall We Dine?

The Celebrity Dine Challenge

Sunday 9 PM

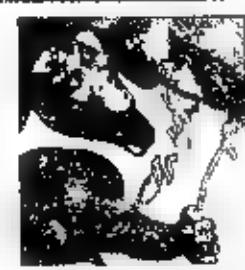
Hosted by Lucy Torres-Gomez



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Channel	12:30PM	1:30PM	2:30PM	4:30PM	5:30PM	6:30PM	7:30PM	8:30PM	9:30PM	10:30PM	11:30PM
ABC 6	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:30 PM
ABS-CBN 2	ETN										
ANB	T	The Foreigner									
Caption Network	Powerplay GMA	English House	Joan & Jerry	T Putih							
Cinema One	Death Wish										
Ciudad	New@CNA	World News	Global Offer								
Citizen Response		MythBusters	Forensic Files								
Discovery Channel		MythBusters	Forensic Files								
Disney Channel	Date Night	Tell It Like It Is	Double Episodes								
ESPN											
ETC		Jean of Arcadia									
ETC 2nd Avenue		Feeding Frenzy									
EWTV	Mythic Myths	Chains of Gold	Image Of God								
Fox News											
GMA 7	Stations										
Hallmark Channel		Horror Stories IV									
HBO	Entertainment										
Hero TV	Miss Cellini	Studio 5	Mark Ruffalo								
IBC 13	Home Shopping	Model Model	Mark Ruffalo								
JackTV	X-Max	The Devil									
Lifestyle Network	Cost Denial	HOTV Special									
MTV Philippines	MTV Day of the Dead	Surgeons	Secrets of the Mind								
MTV	Pop MTV	MTV Bands	MTV News								
National Geographic		Wild Earth	Wildlife								
NTW											
Nickelodeon	Double D	Dora the Explorer	Double D								
PRO											
Cry		Taming the Glass Window	Katrina								
RPN 9		Katrina	Boyz N The Hood								
SCM 21											
Solo Sports											
Sports Plus											
Star Movies											
Star World											
Studio 22											

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Clippers sail past Suns, force 7th game

/A26

Austrie, Renier
SameNebria, Antonio
SameNavarro, Reynaldo
SameSembrano, Renato
SameDavidilla, Warren
SameObosa, Erickson
SameQuirmit, Arnel
01h51'24"Caldron, Joel
01h49'26"

G21



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INCA

COOL FAF

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RED BULL

G21



Tour champ: Give me bigger odds



FATHER'S PRIDE: Tour winner Santy Barnachea of Team Sunbolt gets a kiss from his father Santiago. ROY CABRIDO

By Musong R. Castillo

SANTY Barnachea, saying he would have been happier with a greater challenge, completed his date with destiny yesterday.

After riding out the 75-kilometer criterium final stage for formality around the busy streets of Marikina, the 30-year-old native of Umingan, Pangasinan, crowned himself Tour Pilipinas

stage winner for the second time, and the first foreigner to do so who had conquered taller odds before.

"Naka-pabor sa akin yang ibang format ngayon na makita

(The short format of the race favored me a lot)," Barnachea said.

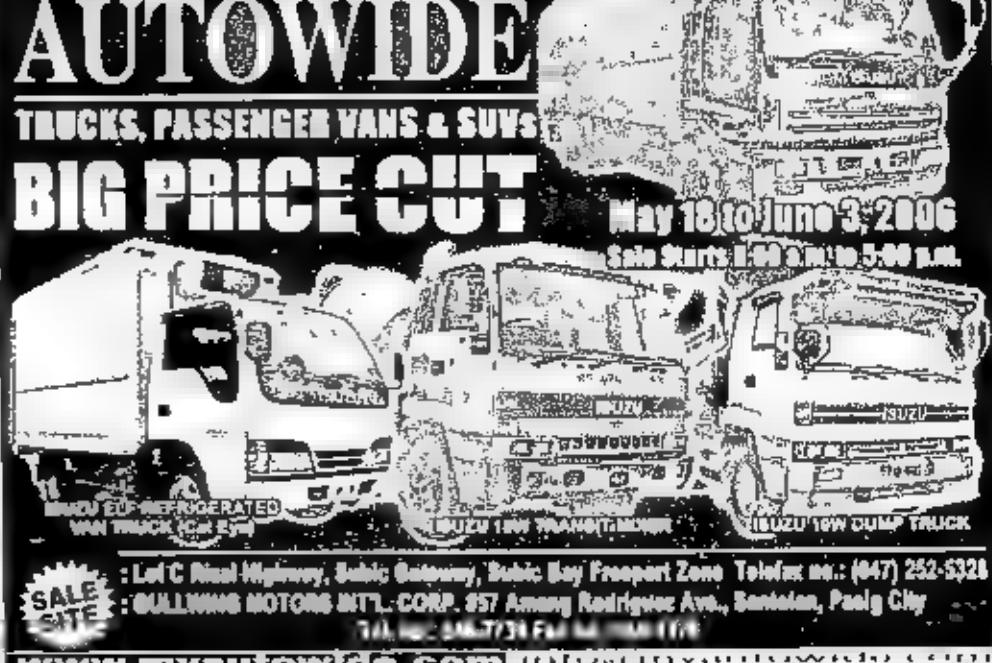
TOUR/A24

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Barnachea craves for tougher cycling Tour

From page A23

"At saka wala tung ibang malakas walang masyadong nagpatirap (Many good veteran riders were not in the field, so I didn't have a really tough time.)"

Barnachea arrived with the second wave of riders that completed 50 laps over a 1.5-km course, clocking 1 hour, 51 minutes and 24 seconds for the final installment to a well-played strategy that had him collaring the

yellow jersey in the third stage going to Baguio on Saturday.

"Dati kasi, pagtulog na namin sa Baguio tapos na kumi (Before, we would already be spent when the Tour hit Baguio)," he said.

The rangy 2006 Tour champ traveled a total of 1,219.4 km in 31 hours, 10 minutes and 3 seconds, winning the crown over feared mountain climber Frederick Feliciano

by 3 minutes and 58 seconds and by 8:54 over last year's winner, Warren Davadilla, who was fifth overall.

This year's Tour was just for eight stages, spread over eight days, roughly a third of the summer classics of the past.

Still, the win was worth P75,000 for Santry, plus P18,000 for having worn the yellow jersey for six days, and a piece of the

P350,000 third place prize in the team race for the Sunbolt squad which he captained.

Joel Calderon, meanwhile, ruled the final stage, clocking 1:49.26, a minute and 57 seconds ahead of Barnachea's group, to finish 10th overall just over 22 minutes behind.

Ericson Obosa, the sprinter who won the opening stage from Quezon City to Cabanatuan Friday last week, wheeled in third over-

all, 6:54 behind Barnachea, with Irish Valenzuela, this Tour's top rookie, salvaging fourth, 8:32 behind.

Tomas Martinez was sixth, 9:57 adrift; Renato Sambrano seventh (12:05), former champion Arnel Qurinit, despite two-stage victories, was eighth, 16:43 behind. John Ricafors completed the composition of the Top 10, finishing 18:53 behind in ninth spot.

Hugnatan tows Aces to q'finals

By Jasmine W. Payo

ANTIPOL CITY—RUNNING THEIR OFFENSE through Reynel Hugnatan, the Alaska Aces sealed an outright quarterfinal bid via a 95-77 triumph over the San Miguel Beermen in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup yesterday at the Ynares Center.

Hugnatan, coming off the bench, poured in 12 of his conference-high 16 points in the second half to help the Aces pull away against a nothing-to-lose Beermen squad.

"San Miguel didn't have anything to play for, but they came out hard," said coach Tim Cone after his Aces moved up to fourth with an 8-7 slate.

The Beermen, already assured of an outright semifinal stint, fell into a tie for first place with Purefoods at 11-4.

Jeffrey Cariso sparked the Aces' 10-2 run for a 54-50 edge after trailing, 44-48, in the third period. The Aces continued to pull away at 60-53 after

three-point plays by Willie Miller and Hugnatan.

In the second game, Dennis Espino buried a short jumper at the buzzer to lift Sta. Lucia past Talk N Text, 91-89, and end the Phone Pals outright quarterfinal bid.

The Realtors improved to 4-11 while the Phone Pals dropped their sixth straight game for a 5-10 record.

Meanwhile, the PBA slapped a one-game suspension and a P5,000 fine on Ginebra star Mark Caguioa for his unsportsmanlike behavior in the Kings' 99-88 loss to Coca-Cola last Wednesday.

First Game

ALASKA 95—Hugnatan 16, Belasco 15, Miller 13, Cariso 12, Thoss 10, Dale Cruz 8, Cortez 7, Laure 6, Farnols 6, Wilson 2, Bata 0.

SAI MIGUEL 77—Seigle 21, Perez 15, Ideoneo 12, Caguioa 8, Nobile 6, Gonzales 5, Cobay 4, Kong 3, Honfuego 2, Lopez 1, Adriano 0, Raclaz 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 36-37, 64-57, 95-77



MAIN MAN: Alaska's Reynel Hugnatan in file photo BIRANAZAS

STANDINGS	W	L
Toyota Otis	10	4
Montaña	9	4
G. Goose	8	6
R. or Shine	7	8
Magnolia	6	7
Harbour	6	7
Tek-Tech	4	10
J. Painters	4	10

GAMES TODAY	
{Ovalte Sports Center}	
2 p.m.—Montaña vs. Harbour Centre	
4 p.m.—R. or Shine vs. Magnolia	

Magnolia, Rain or Shine in vital tiff

IT HAS BECOME A SURPRISING TURN OF events for last conference's finalists.

While unlikely contenders have secured the top three seats, Rain or Shine and Magnolia face must-win situations at the end of the PBL Unity Cup elimination round today.

And while the prize isn't exactly an outright berth, it carries an edge that could virtually decide the two squads' title hopes.

The Elasto Painters and the Spinners will dispute the No. 4 seed, which comes

with the twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals, at 4 p.m. today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Paranaque.

Toyota Otis and Montaña claimed the two outright semifinal berths after posting the best records, while Granny Goose copped third place and the first twice-to-beat edge in the quarterfinals.

Totting a better quotient, Rain or Shine still has the best shot to claim the quarterfinal incentive.

Yet the Spinners continue to hold our hope. If Magnolia wins by at least 12 points, it will claim the twice-to-beat advantage.

A three-way tie at 7-7 is also a possibility among Rain or Shine, Magnolia and Harbour Centre, which will tackle semifinalist Montaña at 2 p.m.

In such scenario, Rain or Shine will still finish fourth due to its superior quotient. But if the Painters lose by six points, the Spinners will occupy the fourth spot. *Jasmine W. Payo*



MARLBORO COUNTRY—Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson with the 30 finalists of the Marlboro Adventure Team (MAT) before the start of their two-day adventure training recently in a Tagaytay City camp. Five winners, chosen for their spirit of adventure, camaraderie, team play, attitude, and character, will be announced in a send-off party today at Le Pavilion Hall on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City. The winners will represent the Philippines in the 2006 MAT in Moab, Utah.

Jaca goes for OPBF title tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

TOKYO—CLAIMING HE HAS DONE everything in the gym, rising Filipino boxing star Jimmer Jaca clashes with Japan's Nobuhito Honno today for the vacant Orient-Pacific Boxing Federation super featherweight crown at

the Korakuen Stadium here.

Both fighters breezed through the scales at the Japan Boxing Commission in yesterday's weigh-in. Jaca, who has spanned 215 rounds for this fight, came in at 127.4 lb while the muscular Honno weighed 129.6 lb.

Jaca, from Sibulan, Negros Oriental, goes into the fight armed with a 25-1

win-loss-draw slate with 12 KOs.

Honno is ranked WBC No. 9 and boasts a 27-4-2 (5 KOs) record.

Solar Sports will telecast the fight live starting at 9 p.m.

Jaca had ruled as the OPBF super-bantam division in 2004.

"He's in tremendous shape," said trainer Baboy Fernandez.

You think you know Noli Eala? Read on

I USUALLY DON'T GET

fazed or ruffled by cantankerous complaints regarding an item or piece I had written in my column. But when a raving PBA commissioner Noli Eala called the other day to bawl me out about two sentences I had written in my last column, I uncharacteristically took everything in stride, with nary a whimper. I merely purred like a timid kitten. I admit I was intimidated, probably because the vision of his clenched fist while he was having a shouting match with Benito Chua, a PBA fan, at the Araneta Coliseum after a game, was still fresh in my mind.

Noli was enraged over two sentences which, to me and most, were no big deal. He said I had no right to speculate that he had left the Ynares Center early last Sunday (missing the Tejada accident) because he was tired or that he had gone to Boracay to vacation.

"I wasn't tired. I don't get tired! I'm very strong! I'm as strong as the players (or did he say stronger?). I left early because it was Mother's Day, in case you didn't know, and my mother had requested that the whole family be together for dinner," he yelled, jarring my tympanic membranes.

"And for your information, I wasn't in Boracay for a vacation! I was there to actively participate in an international Dragonboat race. You wrote that it didn't help any that I wasn't at the venue at the time of the accident what could have done? I am not a doctor!"

In fairness, I was told that the Purefoods people didn't really care too much about Noli's absence. What bothered them was the absence of a properly equipped ambulance which could have brought Eugene immediately to the hospital, to avoid much swelling and other complications.

Noli then gave me the third degree: "Who gave you all this information?" he demanded. I wondered what information he was talking about. "Tell me who your source is, because I'll find out anyway and I'm going to exterminate that rat!"

I told him it was unethical for a journalist to reveal his/her source. But I promised to give his side in my next column. His dark side, unfortunately.

As for Eugene, the prognosis is very good, according to Purefoods governor Rene Pardo.

"Thank God, the operation went well," he sighed. Mang Pardo informed us that Eugene will go into rehab as soon as he gets strong enough, to bring back his motor functions.

It took four doctors at the Makati Medical Center to perform the four-hour surgery: Dr. Dave Cabantan, spine specialist; Dr. Dindo Isabela, neurosurgeon; Dr. Sonny Odilio, orthopedic sports surgeon; and Dr. Fil Felix, anaesthesiologist.

Mountaineer Leo Oracion and teammate Pastor Emata, the first two Filipinos to reach the summit of Mount Everest, have pulled a big surprise on us.

While firmly focused on the Romi Garduce expedition which was closely monitored and chronicled by GMA-7, most of us didn't know about the duo's presence on the mountain until they were almost at the top.

I wonder if the blackout had been intentional. The ABS-CBN-supported PPMBE (First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition), of which Oracion and Emata are members, was not scheduled to scale Everest until next year.

But here's the twist. The other night, Liza Abenojar, wife of Dale Abenojar, the fourth climber who had also aspired to summit Mount Everest, claimed on national television that it was her husband who had reached the Everest peak first.

Liza claimed her husband had communicated to her that he had completed the climb last Monday yet, way ahead of Oracion and Emata.

If this is true, the burden of proof is on Abenojar.

As it now appears, the Mount Everest expedition was a race to the top among Filipinos, after all.

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PARK Jong-Soo, playing for Eastridge, lines his putt on the 12 hole. He went on to beat Tagaytay Highlands' Tootsie de Jesus, 4 and 3. ERICKA ZAS

Korean expats rule nat'l tourney of club champs

By Jong Arcano

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—PARK JONG-SOO AND Kwon Il-seul made it an all-Korean show in the second National Tournament of Club Champions presented by Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. and INQUIRER Golf when they bested their local foes in yesterday's finals at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club here.

The 27-year-old Park, playing for the Eastridge Golf Club of Binangonan, Rizal, halted the giant-killing run of Tootsie de Jesus, 4 and 3, their match taking a bizarre finish after the Tagaytay Highlands bet hit his own golf cart on the 15th hole for an automatic loss of hole.

The 15-year-old Kwon, playing for the host club, won 2-up in her duel with Virtue Godio, who carried the colors of Alabang and Sta. Elena, after another drama, this time on the last hole.

Their match went to the par-4 18th with the Korean teenager leading by a hole. Although Godio sent an overclubbed 3-wood drive into the bunker, she had all the chance to forge a playoff

with a par as the Korean was on a very difficult lie at the edge of the bunker.

"Showtime," Godio whispered as she prepared for the most important bunker shot of her career, needing a good pop of about six feet.



KWON: 2-hole win

Dugout came after the blast as Godio stayed in the bunker, the ball moving just a few feet from where she stood.

That mistake cleared the way for Kwon who won the hole with a bogey, setting off a celebration as Eagle Ridge personnel lit fireworks at greenside.

Park and Kwon won trips to prestigious HSBC events in Wentworth, England, and New Jersey, United States, for their feats.

Godio and De Jesus each won a driver of their

choice and a trip to a local destination.

It didn't help that De Jesus, who took up the game only 18 months ago but is now a 6-handicapper, seemed unfamiliar with match play rules.

Trying to save himself from getting dormie, De Jesus still had a chance as Park hit a long drive that landed in the hazard, and he had a playable lie in the bushes.

Rules official Gaboy Coscoluelas asked De Jesus to move his golf cart that was parked nearby, but he said it was alright.

A horror wood shot popped out of the tall grass and onto the cart.

Coscoluelas later informed De Jesus about the infraction. Accepting his mistake, De Jesus congradulated a surprised Park.

Sponsors of the NTCC are Sta. Lucia Realty, Callaway as the official apparel, Isuzu the official vehicle, Titleist the official ball, PAL the official carrier, Chuva Regal, The Travel Club, Pacific Air Media and Microtel as official hotel. Platonic, the first locally assembled golf cart, was the hole-in-one sponsor.

Bernis coasts to 4-shot Samsung Tour victory with 69

JUN BERNIS FIRED A SECOND STRAIGHT 3-UNDER-PAR 69 YESTERDAY TO WIN THE SAMSUNG AMATEUR GOLF TOUR SECOND LEG BY FOUR SHOTS OVER FORMER SERIES CHAMPION KIM CHANG HAN AT THE SUMMIT POINT AND COUNTRY CLUB IN LIPA CITY.

Bernis, the former national amateur champion and DHL Open winner in 2004, started the day a shot in front of Paul Echavez, who eventually struggled to a 73 and settled for third place.

Bata battles Amang in Vegas Open

EFREN "BATA" REYES BOWED TO GERMANY'S RALF SOUQUET, 9-11, IN THE FIFTH ROUND YESTERDAY AND ARRANGED AN ALL-FILIPINO SHOWDOWN WITH JOSE "AMANG" PANCA IN THE 2006 ENJOYPOOL.COM 9-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN YESTERDAY AT THE RIVERINA HOTEL AND CASINO IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

The California-based Panca, who lost in the fourth round to Johnny Archer, 11-8, bounced back into contention by nipping Satoshi Kawabata of Japan, 11-10, and Tony Robles of the US, 11-7, in the losers' bracket.

Souquet arranged a hot-seat match against fellow unbeaten Archer in the sixth round.

The winner of the match between Reyes and Panca will slug it out with Charlie Williams or American Mike Davis, whom Panca had beaten in the third round, 11-10.

In the fourth round's other featured matches, Williams upset defending champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 11-10, while Souquet posted a similar 11-10 win over American Corey Deuel. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Jetski series pits locals vs visitors

SUBIC—TWO RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL RIDERS FROM GUAM WILL TEST TOP FILIPINO JET SKIERS TODAY IN THE SECOND LEG OF THE 2006 PETRON NATIONAL JETSKI SERIES AT THE WATERFRONT BEACH HERE.

Alex del Mundo and Ron Guyos, both jetski champs in Guam and veterans of the annual World Jet Ski Finals in Arizona, arrived last night and are expected to provide excitement in the Expert division.

That field includes 1991 champion John Dee of Intex Marketing and Dev't Corporation, Thailand King's Cup veteran BJ Ang and World Jet Ski runner-up Paul del Rosario, who bagged three titles in the kickoff leg.

Also expected to gain attention are up-and-coming riders led by Dax Figueroa, Rommel Pineda, Butch Casado, Robbie David and Myk Mangio who will dispute the titles in the Novice division.

Active jet ski riders and new enthusiasts intending to compete in the national series can call up Network Jetsports at tel. no. 413-3109 or may log on at www.networkjetsports.com.

SJC derby slates 60 fights

BIGTIME COCKFIGHTING RESUMES AT THE SAN JUAN COLISEUM AS A SPECIAL 5-COCK DERBY FLIES OFF AT 4 P.M. TODAY WITH SOME 60 QUALITY FIGHTS ON TAP AND WITH SAGUPAAN COMPLEXOR 3000 AS MAIN BACKER. UPCOMING DERBYLIST TONY ANTONIO, SON OF SABONG IDOL PATRICK ANTONIO, WILL HOST THE DERBY WHICH DREW PARTICIPANTS FROM PRESTIGIOUS COCKERS ORGANIZATIONS. ACCORDING TO ANTONIO, AFICIONADOS CAN EXPECT A RARE BATTLE OF BETS FROM THE CAGAYAN COCKERS GROUP, GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIATION AND PASAY COCKPIT COCKERS ASSOCIATION. FOR OTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CALL 725-5369 OR 0917-8041691. MEANWHILE, THE HANDLERS CUP 4-COCK DERBY IS ALSO SLATED AT SJC ON MONDAY, MAY 22.

**Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.**

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

SATURDAY Special

A2

Meet Batac's Grandma Moses

By Behn Cervantes

BUT, THE COUNTRY should know you!" Napoleon "Billy" Abueva, National Artist for the Visual Arts, stated when Lucia Mangapit Valdez demurred from holding an exhibit of her paintings in Manila.

After all, the 88-year-old widow of career diplomat Casimiro Marcos Valdez has held exhibits of her works in London, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zealand and Germany.

Distinct honor

In fact, Valdez has the distinct honor of being accepted as a non-member exhibitor in London galleries.

Paul Douglas, former president of the American University in Washington, DC, cites "her versatility of media, whether oil, chalk or watercolor, and her citizenship (which finds expression in her sincerity and outreach) are reflected in her painting called "Hope."



VALDEZ Keen observation and perception.

Diplomat

In 1948, she married her diplomat husband, who constantly encouraged her artistic aspirations.

She also became a friend and associate of National Artist for Theater, Severino Montano.

Angela Valdez Timutinan proudly declares, "Auntie Lucing is a wealth of information on Ilokano history."

Auntie Lucing is knowledgeable about regional folklore, music, Ilokano literature and art forms," Angela also shares. "And

she can provide vital information on pre-war cosmopolitan churches in Manila."

Auntie Lucing remembers the dangerous years, when she would smuggle goods and

medical supplies to the captured American missionary, Mary Stagg.

The Manila Chronicle writes: "Her works

MEET/A2-2

"OLD SEAPORT IN CURRIMAO."

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SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Hanks, Howard crack a contentious 'Code'

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Da Vinci Code"D: Ron Howard
S: Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen, Paul Bettany, Alfred Molina

HOW STRONG IS YOUR FAITH? IF YOU meet the last living descendant of Jesus Christ, are you willing to do anything—even commit murder—to protect it?

If you are easily swayed by conspiracy theories similar to those cooked up by Oliver Stone ("JFK") or Chris Carter ("The X-Files"), then watching the big-screen adaptation of Dan Brown's controversial book is like opening the proverbial Pandora's box. But, let's get things straight, "The Da Vinci Code" is a well-spun yarn of pulp fiction, made more engaging by man's natural affinity to his spirituality and religion.

When Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) is summoned by the French police after a curator at the Louvre is found dead inside the museum, he—along with French cryptologist Sophie Neveu (Audrey Tautou of "Amélie"), estranged granddaughter of the fallen man—uncovers a trail of clues hidden in the paintings of Leonardo Da Vinci.

But, the "secrets" the pair unravel don't just lead to answers about the murdered man and his assassin, Silas (Paul Bettany). They reveal unsettling details about the humanity of Jesus Christ. From the damning stories culled from the apocryphal gospels of Philip and Mary Magdalene, and the rituals (elices, etc.) that the staunchly religious undergo, to the shadowy—as they're portrayed in the film—characters behind the secretive, ultra-conservative Roman Catholic faction, Opus Dei. As Robert and Sophie unlock one can of worms after another, they increasingly expose themselves to nefarious characters who will stop at nothing to protect their interests.

Producer Brian Grazer makes the wise decision of hiring the services of the well-respected Hanks and the nonconfrontational Ron Howard, a master storyteller who's adept at weaving high-concept stories and spectacles, to bring the controversial tale to the movie screen.

As it is, the production is already under fire for its preposterous—okay, heretical—views about one of history's most influential figures. But, Howard knows his medium, and has yet to fail at delivering movies that don't just provoke, but entertain as well. The story proposes a disturbingly revisionist view that undermines the basic tenets of Christianity—that alone makes it controversial. We're tempted to discuss them, but we won't spoil the fun for you.

Moreover the rest of the plot involves theories and assumptions that are hard to ignore. From the mythical Holy Grail to the "real" identity of Mary Magdalene.

Like Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ," which posited another controversial assumption about the relationship of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, Howard's film will continue to generate debate about the quality of the film and the assertions it makes.

Surely, J. M. G. Le Clézio had to endure a lot of brickbats for his largely faithful but otherwise violently graphic depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus, how much more a story that questions the very foundation of Christianity?

The movie, which features fine performances from Hanks, Tautou, Bettany, Jean Reno and Ian McKellen, benefits from Howard's deft handling of its sensitive material. Its tone, though, is a tad more serious than we expected—and the film is a little too long, but it delivers engaging entertainment just the same.

However, if the controversy surrounding

the movie drives the spiritually distant and ambivalent youth of today to commence a discourse about God, morality and organized religion, then the film, aside from entertaining,

shall have served its (unwitting) purpose. A strong faith, after all, doesn't waver in the face of speculation and adversity—as a lot of fallen martyrs can attest.

TAUTOU AND HANKS. Team up to uncover the "secrets" behind Leonardo Da Vinci's paintings.



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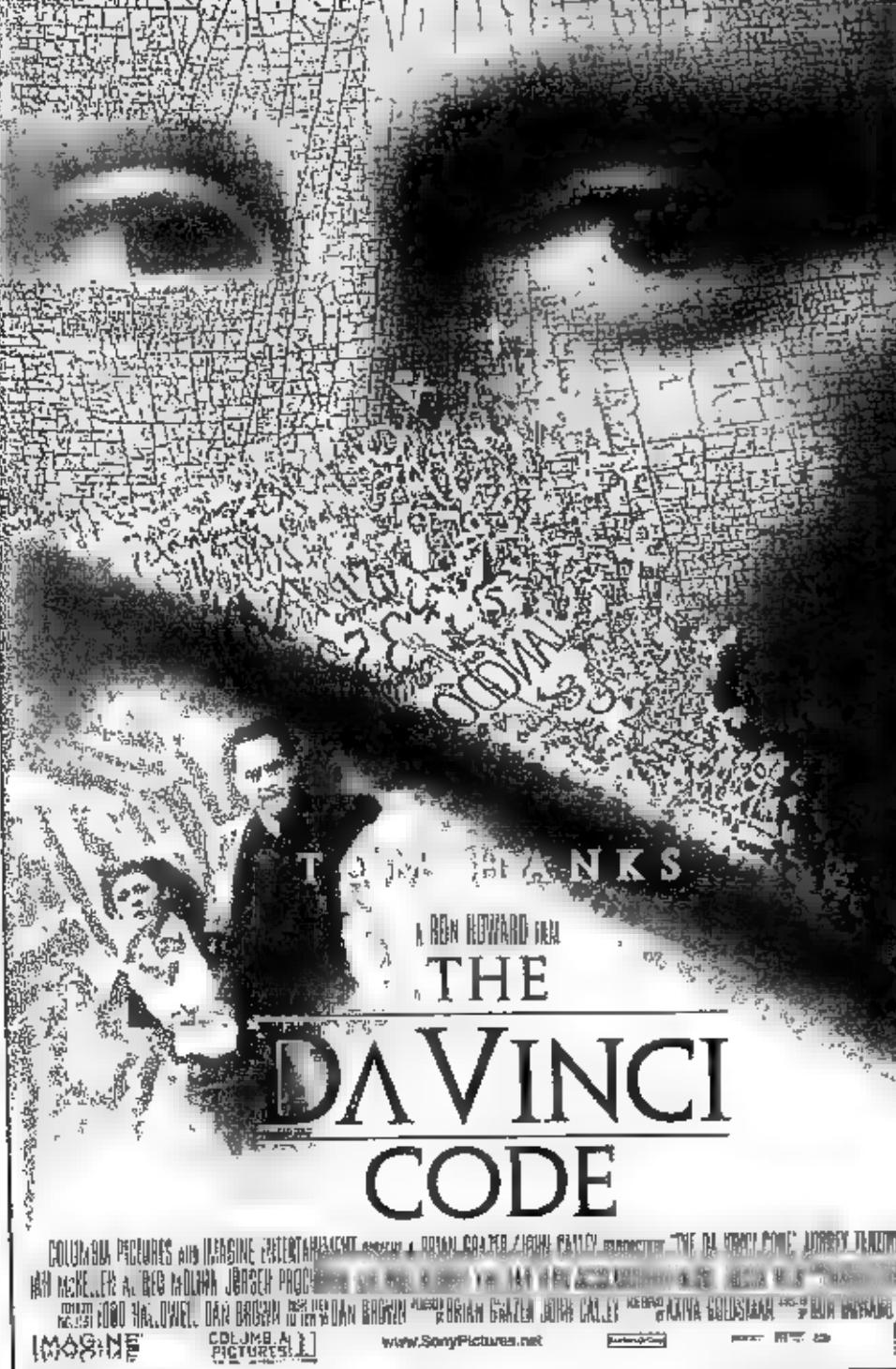
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Distributed by **COLUMBIA PICTURES**

By Nestor U. Torre

LIFE HAS BECOME SO STRESSFUL and complicated that viewers cry out for a much-needed break, by way of comedy films.

Ever eager to oblige, movie producers are providing that welcome respite

with clarity, by way of these new cinematic romps that aim to affirm the grimacing contention that laughter is indeed the best medicine.

Sequel

The first "Pirates of the Caribbean" flick was such a gas that a sequel, "Dead

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006



WILLIAMS (WITH JEFF DANIELS, LEFT), Plays an absent father in "RV."

Man's Chest," has been trotted out for viewing next month. This time

Sparrow (Johnny Depp) finds out that he owes a blood debt to the legendary Davy Jones, and must find a way out or be doomed to eternal damnation.

Robin Williams'

"RV" casts him as an absent father. He and his dysfunctional family rent an RV and head for the Rockies. Naturally, everything goes wrong with their "fun" vacation.

Superhero

For his part, Tim Allen plays an out-of-shape superhero in his action-comedy "Zoom." He reluctantly agrees to turn a group of kids into a new generation of superheroes to save the world from destruction.

In "Stick It," Jeff Bridges plays the coach of a team of rule-abiding gymnasium taste for rebellion after a few days of fun.

In "Unaccompanied Minors," it's a journey that five kids are shown in at the airport—with no parent in sight! The kids try

LAUGHTER, A-3



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GB3	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 OVER THE HEDGE	3 POSEIDON	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
ATC	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 OVER THE HEDGE	3 POSEIDON	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
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M2	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 POSEIDON	3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
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GLORIETTA 4

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 6 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30

GLORIETTA 1

Cinema 1 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 2 - 12:10 PM, 3:20 PM, 6:30, 9:40

GREENBELT 1

Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30

GREENBELT 3

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 2

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 4

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 5

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 6

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 7

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 8

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 9

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 10

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 11

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 12

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 13

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 14

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 15

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 16

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 17

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 18

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

GREENBELT 19

Cinema 1 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
Cinema 2 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 8:00
Cinema 3 - 12:30 PM, 3:40,

International theater festival slated May 23-27

THEATER BUFFS AND WORKERS SHOULD take advantage of the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute Congress which will be held in Manila from May 23 to 27, the first time that the global event is being staged in Southeast Asia.

Delegates

Around 500 delegates are attending the congress, so our theater people should have a field day interacting with their colleagues from other countries, looking for commonalities and celebrating their cultures' uniqueness.

There will also be performances galore, plus seminars and other opportunities for in-

teraction that we shouldn't pass up, because they could expand and enrich our appreciation of the congress' theme: Heritage Impingement on theater and life today.

In addition, the World Festival of Drama Schools is currently being held (until May 29). Its "Theater for All" component is particularly exciting because it enables foreign drama groups to perform all over the Philippines. For instance, Peruvian performers will visit Vigan, Indian players will perform in Baguio, and a troupe from the Ukraine will go to Iloilo.

We cite this initiative because we think it's important that theater gets out of theaters and reach out to people where they live and breathe.

Events

The congress and festival has many other components, so people who love stage presentations are urged to do their best to clear their schedules, so they can watch or participate in as many theater events as they can before the ITI events come to a close.

For schedules, call NCCA at 527-2192 or 93, fax 527-5529, or visit www.ncca.gov.ph

Haunting

From page A3-3

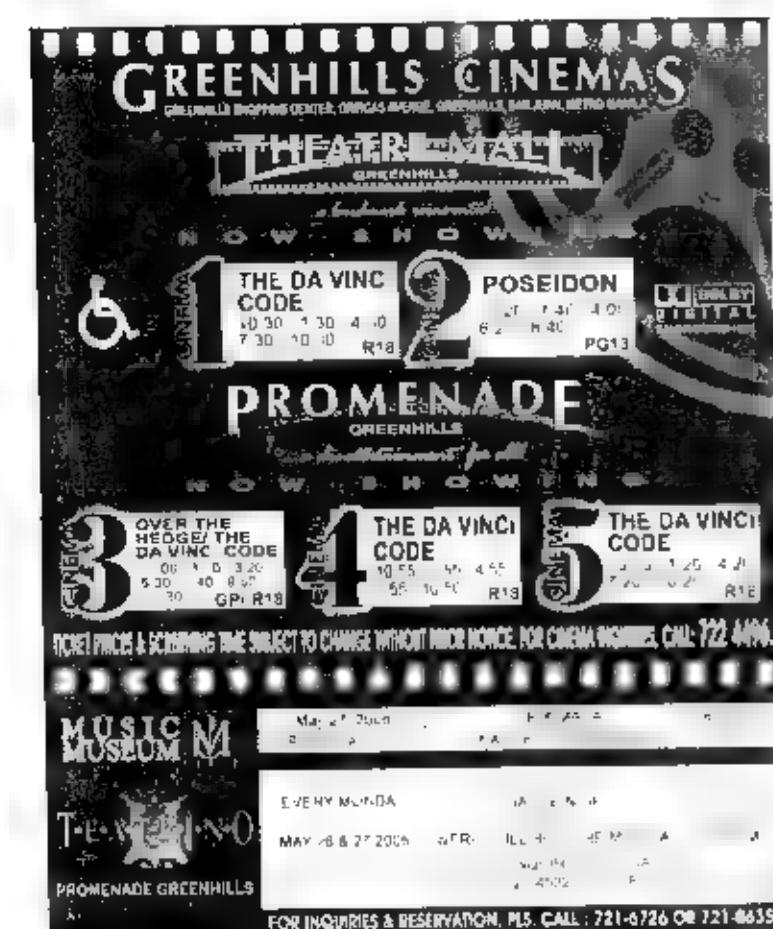
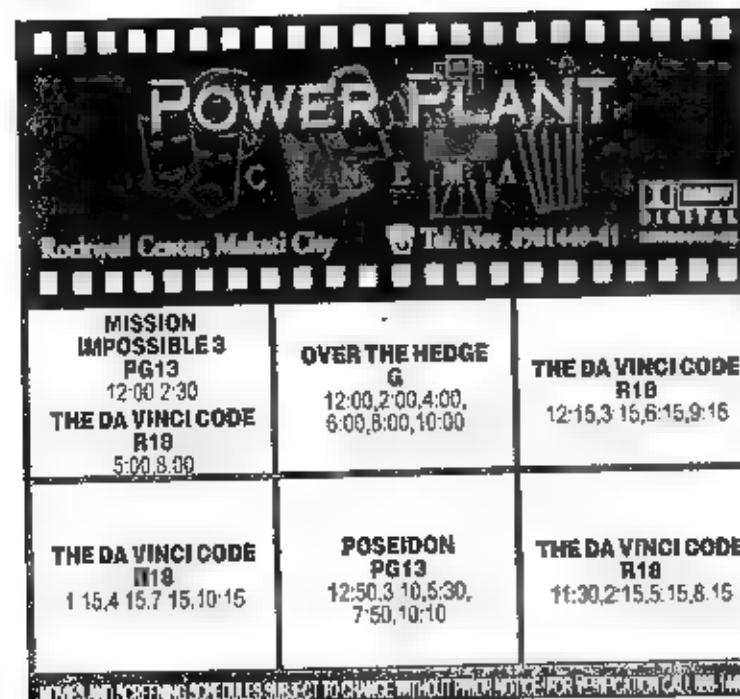
angry, vengeful ghosts of the victims. Then it gets confusing.

These people are supposed to be the reincarnated souls of the murder victims. Yet, they are being haunted by their own souls—and the souls of others who were killed that day. It doesn't make any sense. How can you be a ghost if you've already been reincarnated?

Problematic

Shumzu, who gave us the "Ju-on" / "Grudge" films, doesn't appear to find this problematic. Later on, you'll see these people looking zombiefied and lurking around in the hotel.

Despite the confusion engendered, the movie will still keep you riveted—if only because you want to find out why the murderer did what he did.





BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Banks' bad loans ratio falls to 8-year low

Further decline seen with SPV framework

By Doris C. Dumao

THE AMOUNT OF SOURED LOANS OF PHILIPPINE commercial banks as a percentage of their total lending portfolio dipped to a new eight-year low at 8.26 percent in end-March, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The end-March non-performing loans (NPL) ratio was a notch lower than the 8.27 percent posted in end-February, and was the industry's lowest since hitting 7.42 percent in end-March 1998.

"The month-on-month improvement in the industry's NPL ratio was mainly due to banks' direct write-offs of problem loans as well as rigorous collection and settlement efforts," the BSP said.

During the month, the industry's

NPLs declined by 0.5 percent to P157.89 billion, offsetting the 0.3-percent cut in total loan portfolio to P1.91 trillion.

The NPL ratio in March stood significantly lower than the year-ago level of 11.3 percent. Year-on-year, banks' problem loans were also nearly 25 percent lower than the reported P207.19 billion level in end-March last year.

The ratio of restructured loans to total loan portfolio slightly went up to

5.2 percent from a month ago's 5.16 percent after a 0.4-percent growth in total restructured loans.

But actual restructured loans fell by 6 percent, thereby bringing non-performing restructured loans as a ratio of total restructured loans down by 3.22 percentage points to 47.68 percent.

As of end-March, total restructured loans amounted to P99.7 billion while non-performing loans stood at P47.54 billion.

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities, lowering of interest rates and, in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity—to give the borrower a

BANKS/B2



SM PRIME president Hans Sy poses for photographers at the lobby of the Mall of Asia. RUBEN ESPEROS

P6.5-B 'Mall of Asia' opens tomorrow

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC., THE MALL DEVELOPER of tycoon Henry Sy, is opening tomorrow the P6.5-billion "Mall of Asia," its biggest and most ambitious project in the country to date.

SM Prime president Hans Sy said the 400,000-square-meter mall would give jobs to an estimated 10,000 workers—which include construction workers, tenants' personnel and department store and hypermarket employees.

"This is our own way to contribute to the economy. 10,000 new jobs will keep the ball rolling," Sy said following a press conference held at the Ithanni's Restaurant in the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Rigorous security systems will be in place by Sunday's grand opening with surveillance cameras and close-circuit TV monitors in place and more than a dozen bomb sniffing dogs patrolling the area.

President Macapagal Arroyo will be the guest of honor during the mall's blessing today.

Mall of Asia is Sy's 25th mall, with more than 600 local and international brands and 150 indoor and al fresco dining outlets.

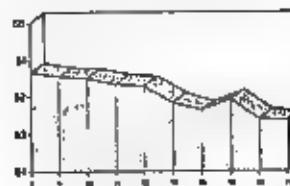
The mall is also seen to consume up to P65 million worth of electricity a month compared with one of its largest malls, SM Megamall's P45 million in power usage a month.

Sy said he harbored mixed feelings about the long-awaited launch of Mall of Asia after it took two-and-a-half years to build.

"Now the pressure on construction is over, the pressure on operation is about to begin," Sy said.

P6.5-B MALL/B2

EXCITING CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.65 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 19, 2006

EURO-DOLLAR RATE

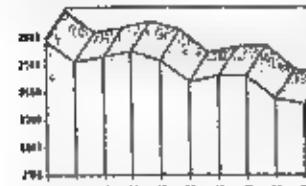
E 111.74 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 19, 2006

GOLD: \$684.30-\$684.80

per ounce Hong Kong, May 19, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.96 percent lower yesterday after further losses on Wall Street overnight amid continued uncertainty over the outlook for US interest rates, dealers said.

They said the local market's recent sell-off has pushed the main index back to where it was before it surged to a near seven-year high early last week.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 22.72 points at 2,356.02 after trading between 2,339.51 and 2,378.74. Volume totaled 9.96 billion shares worth P2.2 billion.

SHARES/B4

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BUSINESS

Alcatel seeks bigger RP presence

Piltel accelerates debt repayment

Operations improving, officials say

By Daxim L. Lucas

FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY firm Alcatel recently signed on two additional business partners in the country in a bid to increase its market share in the booming telecommunications industry.

In a press briefing, a regional Alcatel official said the move—which rides on the strengths of local partners—would help the company develop a stronger presence in the country while allowing it to save on manpower costs.

"We now have two new business partners in the Philippines to add to the existing one," senior vice president for enterprise solutions in the Asia-Pacific Clifton Yong said.

The partnership with local firms maximizes the company's reach in the local market by providing local clients with sales and support services, he added.

At present, the company holds an 18-percent market share in the local voice, data and call center communications business which is estimated to be worth almost \$100 million, Alcatel country manager Goulds L. Castillo Jr. said.

He said the local market for data transmission equipment was the largest segment worth an estimated \$40 million, followed by the market for voice transmission equipment at \$27 million, while the market for call center communications is worth up to \$15 million.

Daxim L. Lucas

LISTED FIRM PILIPINO TELEPHONE Corp.—the mass market mobile phone unit of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.—will cut its debt level by almost half this year as its operations continue to improve.

Speaking to reporters recently, Piltel president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said that the company plans to pay off \$177 million worth of debt to its creditors by next month.

The payment represents 43 percent of the company's outstanding debt, which it had amassed since the late 1990s.

"After this, we will be left with a balance of only \$236 million [in debt]," he said.

Nazareno expressed confidence that Piltel can pay off the remaining debt in a year or a year and a half, at the latest, given the company's strong cash flow.

He explained that the aggressive repayment of the company's debts was also meant to help it save money through the reduction of interest expenses on the loans.

Earlier this month, Piltel submitted notices to creditors of its intent to make a partial voluntary prepayment of its principal debt instead of making a deposit into its sinking fund account—a condition of its rehabilitation

plan sealed with creditors in 2001.

Piltel said the amount of the prepayment represents excess cash flows from its operations in 2005.

Nazareno said the original schedule for the repayment of the first tranche would not have come until 2010, and the second tranche by 2014, but improving finances made Piltel's management decide on an earlier date.

The move was also meant to improve the company's credit standing with the financial community, which had shunned the mobile phone network operator in the aftermath of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis which brought it to the brink of bankruptcy.

More importantly, Piltel managed to return to a positive stockholders' equity at the end of last year after three years of reporting a negative position.

Its stockholders' equity stood at P6.7 billion as of end March this year. The capital deficit also continued to decline to P30.1 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2006, lower than the P32.3 billion and P45.8 billion at the end of 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Nazareno said the improvement in the company's finances was made possible by its strong cash flows, especially from its "Talk 'N Text" service which caters to the mass market.

Banks' . . . From page 81

chance to revive its business.

As a percentage of gross assets, real and other properties owned and acquired or Ropaa dipped to 4.94 percent from the previous month's 4.97 percent. This reduced the level of Ropaa to P196.81 billion.

The industry's non-performing asset ratio to total assets also eased to 8.68 percent from 8.74 percent last month.

Meanwhile, the coverage ratio or the share of bad loans provided with loan-loss reserves, amounted to 79.32 percent in end-March, up from 79.27 percent a month ago.

URS Investment Bank senior economist for Southeast Asia Christa Janic said bank lending in the Philippines remained anemic due to the industry's huge amounts of non-performing loans and assets, weak capital base and high lending rates despite falling treasury bill and bond yields.

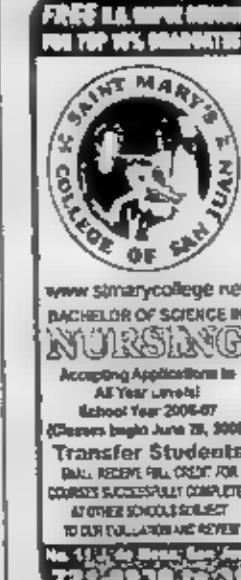
But she said "the building blocks may be coming together" as banks' bad assets had been falling sharply on the back of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework, which provides fiscal incentives to the sale of problematic loans and foreclosed properties.

P6.5-B 'Mall' . . . From page B1

Mall of Asia is expected to contribute 3

to 5 percent to SM Prime's total revenues and will further boost the company's earnings in the second half of the year.

Sitting on a 60-hectare for overlooking Manila Bay, the complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways—the Main Mall, the North Parking Building, the South Parking Building and the Entertainment Center Building. The Main Mall is host to the food court and large showroom-style retail and dining establishments.



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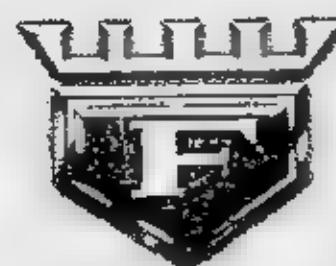
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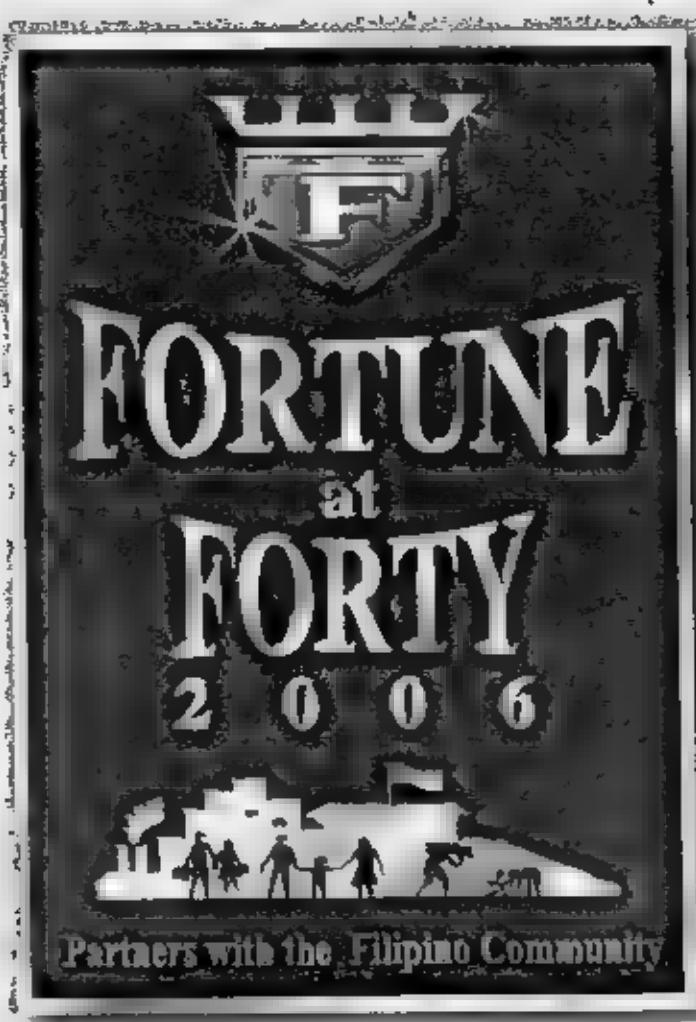
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Tobacco firms use deception to promote products—WHO

By Tessa R. Salazar

DEADLY IN ANY FORM or disguise" is the battle cry of the World Health Organization in its global anti-tobacco campaign to be launched on May 31.

The WHO's World No Tobacco Day 2006 campaign warns that the tobacco industry is still using "lights" and "mild" or "low tar" campaigns. For the youth, the industry employs fruity flavors, a move WHO says offers buyers the "illusion of safety."

"They continue to take their old and new customers to more insidious levels of deception by promoting and selling new products disguised under healthier names, fruity flavors or more attractive-looking packaging," WHO said in a statement.

Real effects

Dr. Jessica C. de Leon of the Department of Health said tobacco advertising links tobacco to many things, including glamour, extreme sports lifestyles, culture, anything that has nothing to do with tobacco."

But, she said, the real effects of tobacco on the lungs are "completely opposite to the sexy models and campaigns" endorsing the product.

The World No Tobacco Day 2006 campaign encourages governments to strictly regulate the sale of tobacco products.

De Leon said that in the Philippines, the warning label on tobacco packs would soon be shifted to the front of the pack instead of on the sides.

"Eventually the country's antitobacco advocates want pictograms [on the pack age], but it's not in the law yet," she said.

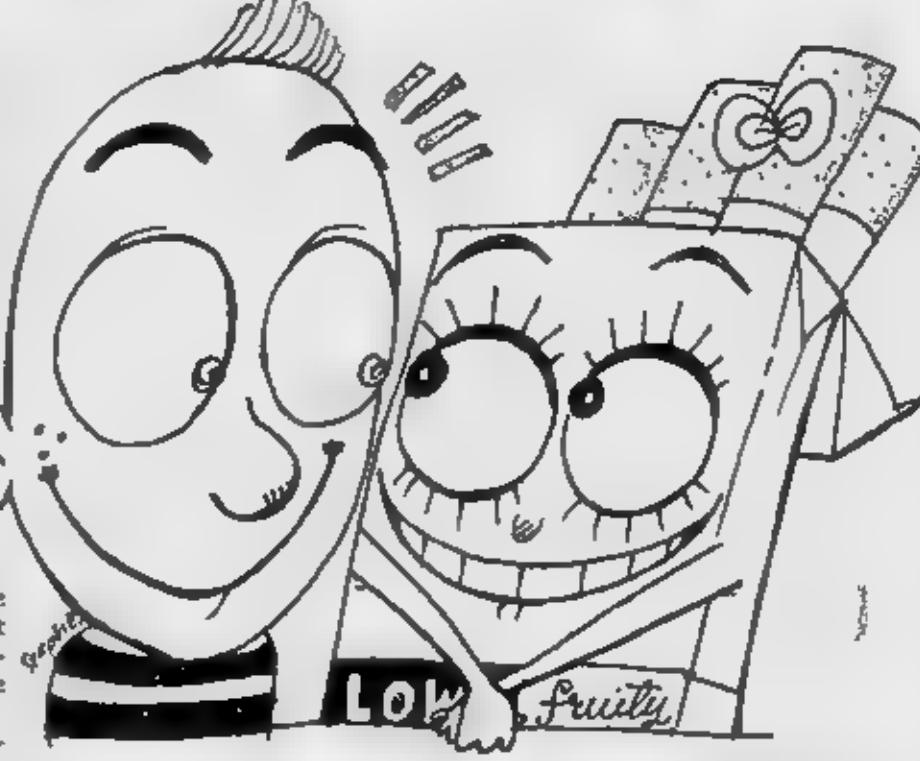
"In other countries, pictograms are already used. These are pictures depicting the effect of tobacco on the lungs and teeth, on children with asthma and other congenital anomalies, and hazardous effects such as cancer," she said.

5 M deaths annually

Health experts have identified tobacco as the second major cause of death in the world, being responsible for the death of one out of every 10 adults worldwide (about five million deaths each year). If current smoking patterns continue, they estimate that by 2020, it would cause some 10 million deaths each year.

Dr. Charlotte S. dela Cruz of the Countryside Rehab Med Clinic recently conducted a lecture in the Inquirer offices on the different problems brought about by smoking.

Among the less known effects of smoking, she said, are hair loss, cataracts, wrinkling, hearing loss, skin cancer, tooth decay, emphysema, osteoporosis, stomach ulcers, discolored fingers, uterine cancer and miscarriages, deformed



sperm and porians.

Another side effect of long-term smoking is Buerger's Disease, an inflammation of the arteries, veins and nerves in the legs, leading to restricted blood flow. It can lead to gangrene and amputation of the affected areas.

Smoking can also cause reproductive disturbances in women, fetal abnormalities and even death during pregnancy and low birth weight in infants.

The DOH said nonsmokers who are exposed to second hand smoke are prone to heart disease, lung cancer, respiratory infections and asthmatic bronchitis (in infants and children), and chronic irritation of the eyes, nose and throat (especially among children).

Redefining high blood pressure

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

NEW YORK—A NEW POSITION paper discussed during the ongoing convention of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH) here suggests that blood pressure should be viewed as a continuous lifelong risk factor and should be considered in the context of the total cardiovascular risk, and not as an isolated risk factor that can be treated on a piecemeal basis.

It may sound like a paradox but one can have hypertensive cardiovascular disease (CVD) even before one's BP is considered significantly elevated.

Complex process

According to ASH president Thomas Giles, MD, hypertension-related CVD is a complex process that begins before BP values reach levels currently used to define hypertension. Hence, hypertension cannot simply be diagnosed when the BP crosses certain predefined threshold.

The problem with a threshold-based definition of hypertension is that it fails to identify

a large group of patients who have subclinical CVD that may precede more severe chronic BP elevations," says Dr. Giles.

Many cardiovascular diseases including hypertension, diabetes and hypercholesterolemia are now being continuously scrutinized as to their more appropriate definition which can alert the attending physician to

treat these disorders earlier, before serious vital organ involvement sets in. The vital organs usually involved are the heart, brain and kidneys.

Redefinition of hypertension is likely to continue as clinicians, researchers and physicians gain additional insights into the early indicators of CVD. "Many practitioners have become fixated on BP numbers to guide their diagnosis of hypertension, but [symptoms] are often present before BP elevation is observed," explains Dr. Giles.

The ASH has recently organized a Hypertension Writing Group (HWG) to try to dissociate the definition of hypertension with specific numbers of BP. The definition is being expanded by integrating the overall

clinical cardiovascular manifestations. This assessment looks at the individual patient as a whole, correlating all the clinical findings with the BP and whatever cardiovascular risk factors may be present.

This redefinition of hypertension and the other risk factors is expected to improve clinical care in patients with these risk factors.

"We need to shift our focus to lowering BP and protecting the heart, vasculature [blood vessels] and target [vital] organs at the same time," stresses Dr. Giles.

Many experts attending the ASH meeting agree that it's a necessary change in focus that has important clinical implications for patient management, research, drug development, public health efforts and patient education.

Paradigm shift

The HWG position paper recommends a paradigm shift which will change the current approach to hypertension. It does not consider rational any hypertension treatment based on BP measurements alone, without considering the overall cardiovascular risk.

"Such a strategy would in-

volve treating a significant number of individuals who are not at significant risk of cardiovascular events [strokes, heart attacks, etc.]," Dr. Giles says.

Physicians treating hypertensive patients are now enjoined to incorporate the presence of risk factors, early disease markers and target organ damage in order to identify those at risk for CVD much earlier.

Determining cause

"It also helps us avoid labeling individuals who are at low risk for CVD as hypertensive," says Dr. Giles.

Elevated BP is important, but it should be every physician's goal to determine why it became elevated in the first place, adds Dr. Giles.

This new challenge to the medical and research community will no doubt trigger a lot of debates and discussions, but the logic behind the new recommendations in the HWG position paper appears to be clinically rational and should be able to convince most physicians on how thorough management of cardiovascular problems like hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol problems should be approached.

Nat'l math tilt winners

LAST APRIL THE FINAL ROUND of the annual Metrobank Foundation-Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines-Department of Education Math Challenge was held at the Metrobank Plaza. Seventeen regions of the country and 169 of the 187 DepEd divisions (for a whopping 90.37 percent) participated this year.

More than 300,000 elementary and high school students from more than 18,000 public and private schools took part in the challenge, from eliminations, to division, to regional, and for grade six and fourth year high school, to the national finals.

Math proficiency is sorely needed in today's globalized and information-saturated world. I commend the three organizations, a veritable partnership among academe, government and business, for making the competition possible again this year.

The contest, which started in 1998, is the biggest of its kind in the country. This year, the bar was raised higher as regional winners needed to compete with other contestants within the same geographical area: Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Only the top two with a score of at least 40 points out of the perfect 60 would advance to the national finals.

Cash allowances were given to the coaches of contestants in regional and national rounds, even if their wards did not win. Close to half a million pesos in cash prizes, plus trophies and medals, were given away to the winners.

Winners

I had the privilege of serving as chair of the board of judges in the national finals, and we were impressed with the abilities of the contestants.

Who were the best of the best? The grade six national individual winners were Andrew James Tan Lee (St. Jude Catholic School), Immanuel Encarnacion (Colegio

EUREKA!

Queena N.
Lee-Chua

San Agustin Bisan) and Zheng Rong Wu (Zamboanga Chong Hua High School). The top three teams were Chiang Kai Shek College (Aldric Cristoval Reyes and Kennard Ong Sychungping), Grace Christian High School (Gisel Ong and Zislin Zhang) and Colegio San Agustin Bisan (Encarnacion and Neil Patrick Angeles).

Fourth year winners were Emerson Escolar (Grace Christian), Abigail Ceralde (Zamboanga Chong Hua) and Carlo Minon (Xavier University High School).

The top teams were Escolar and Galvin Lester Dy, Jesreal Arcilla and Diosdado Sorsano Jr (Philippine Science High School of Western Visayas, coached by my former student Mt. Jose Ariel Serrato), and Minon and Michael Daniel Lucagbo.

I would like to congratulate my son, Scott Lee Chua of Xavier School, for placing second in the individual regional finals for grade one, and with his teammates Edan Chua and Tristan Liu, coached by Luisa Vaudez, for getting the silver in the team competition. Well done!

Grant proposals

Speaking of incentives, the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF) is calling on nongovernment organizations to submit competitive proposals toward grants for projects to conserve, maintain or restore tropical forests in the country.

This year, total grants for conservation can run up to P40 million.

For details, visit the website at www.gubat.org. You can also contact Xenia C. dela Cruz at finance@gubat.org or call at 524-7923. Deadline is June 6, 2006.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Local anesthesia

Bone density screening important for women

By Charles E. Buban

IF YOU FORGOT TO TREAT your mom last Mother's Day, you may want to consider taking her to the hospital and having her screened for bone density.

Doctors said the test, which takes only a few minutes to complete, could be the best gift children can give to their mothers as it can help prevent osteoporosis.

No signs

Osteoporosis causes bones to weaken and deteriorate and does so without any obvious signs, said Dr. Florante Gonzaga, president of Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (OSPF).

In many cases, it goes undetected until a woman suffers a fracture, especially in the hip, spine and wrist and this could lead to long hospital stays, more severe disability or even death, he said.



"A [bone density] test can detect osteoporosis before a fracture so that steps may be taken to control further loss of bone density," Gonzaga said.

Last week, the foundation tied up with pharmaceutical giant Sanofi-Aventis in organizing a week-long Mother's Day Os-

teoporosis Screening operation (called Mudos Operandi) wherein select hospitals offered free or subsidized bone density tests to mothers aged 40 and above.

The mothers were screened using the central Dual X-ray Absorp-

tometry (Dx) test, the "gold stan-

dard" for detecting osteoporosis, said Dr. Julie Li-Yu, OSPF treasurer.

The test normally costs be-

tween P2,500 and P3,500.

The peripheral Dx was another test offered during the Mudos Operandi. Although this type of test is not as accurate as the central Dx, it would help a doctor determine whether a patient needs further testing.

Asian women

"Testing one's bone density is crucial. While all women are at risk for getting osteoporosis, Asian women have a higher risk because of their lower bone mass and density and smaller body," said Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis, OSPF vice president.

The OSPF estimates that one out of every five postmenopausal Filipino women will be positive for osteoporosis while one out of every three will develop fractures.

IF I HAVE GENERAL ANESTHE-

SIAS when I have my wisdom

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ing local anesthesia? That way I

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MESSAGE

Malacañan Palace
Manila

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Heart Association Inc. as you hold your 37th Annual Convention.

I am pleased to note the valuable contribution of the PHA in the efficient delivery of quality cardiovascular care in our country. Indeed, I expect this annual convention and scientific meeting to be another great opportunity for you to take bolder and more decisive actions to elevate your profession to world standards.

Public health has always been a priority of my administration. Thus, our health agenda is designed to meet the growing demand for health services for our people. I am glad to have you as a partner of government in this endeavor. I encourage you not only to carry on with your mission, but also work doubly hard in attaining your objectives.

Through this convention, I hope you will renew your commitment to medical excellence and service in the field of cardiovascular medicine. Now, more than ever, you play a crucial role in establishing a healthier and more progressive Philippine society.

I wish you all a productive convention. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Department of Health

Welcome greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Heart Association Inc. (PHA) on the holding of their 37th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting entitled "State of the Art to State of the Heart".

We are a witness to various advancements and major achievements in the improvement of our country's health situation during the past years. This was due to persistent pursuit of excellence and selfless service of various organizations to the community.

It is inspiring to know that the Department of Health is not alone in its quest of improving our country's state of health. I commend PHA for having remained a highly privilege group of medical professionals ever responsive to provide health assistance to those in need.

Let us continue to nurture a sense of shared responsibility and move our country towards better health, sustainable development and lasting peace.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, III, MD
Secretary

Philippine Heart Association, Inc

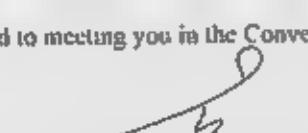
Welcome to our Philippine Heart Association 37th Annual Convention with theme "State of the Art to State of the Heart" which underscores the benefits of the latest global scientific research and developments in cardiovascular medicine.

Advanced medical knowledge and its subsequent clinical application will redound to better care and treatment of our Filipino brothers, even in the remotest barrios, thereby decreasing the morbidity and mortality rate of cardiovascular disease in our country. In keeping with PIA Vision 2012, and PHA Mission 2012, to be a leading organization of cardiovascular specialties in the Asia-Pacific Region.

This year's PHA celebration also highlights the 50th Founding Year of the Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology, organized by the first Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology president Dr. Antonio Suma. The PIA is honored and privileged to commemorate the society's Golden Year in Manila, its birthplace.

The Socials Committee promises to spring surprises.

We look forward to meeting you in the Convention!


MARIANO B. LOPEZ, MD
President

The PIA 37th Annual Convention promises to be a memorable event for the local and foreign delegates because it coincides with the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology.

Highlights of the events include the Mariano Almuring Lecture, which will be delivered by our past President Dr. Anastacio Aquino. Dr. Bijoy Khandheria is this year's Rodolfo Soto Professorial Lecturer. A joint PIA/APSC Symposium delving into cardiovascular diagnostic modalities will bring the latest trends in CT-Angiography, CT-MRI and nuclear imaging to the fore.


EFREN R. VICALDO, MD
Secretary & Over-all chair
PHA 37th Annual Convention

There is no escaping the fact that the science and art of cardiovascular medicine are invariably caught in the fast lane of change, be it within the diagnostic and/or therapeutic realms. As cardiovascular specialists, we necessarily need to keep pace, stay on the fast lane and stay attuned to another dimension, that of the state-of-the-art of our specialty in order to translate it to a better state of our patients' hearts. With this in mind, this year's Scientific Committee chose the theme "State of the Art to State of the Heart".

We will be privileged to interact not only with our homegrown topnotch speakers, but, likewise, with several renowned foreign guest lecturers.


MA. BELEN O. CARISMA, MD
Treasurer & Chair, Scientific Committee
PHA 37th Annual Convention



PHILIPPINE HEART ASSOCIATION INC.

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

37th ANNUAL CONVENTION

"State of the Art to State of the Heart"

EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, MANDALUYONG CITY, MAY 24-27, 2006

PHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005 - 2006



THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PHA 37th Annual Convention



PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

TIME	Wednesday May 24	Thursday May 25	Friday May 26	Saturday May 27
7:30		BREAKFAST SYMPOSIA <i>Uncomplicated Complex</i> 8:15 AM Dr. E. Aquino, MD Dr. Jude F. Almura Dr. Andrew R. Lang Dr. Ralph R. Ray	MEET THE EXPERTS <i>Managing Complex and Uncomplicated Complex in the Management of a Bouver Heart Failure</i> 8:45 AM Dr. Arnold S. Aquino Dr. Jude F. Almura Dr. Andrew R. Lang Dr. Ralph R. Ray Dr. Efren R. Vicaldo	PLENARY LECTURE 2 <i>Off Pump CABG</i> 9:15 AM Dr. Wissam G. Ghadri
8:00 - 9:00		PMUER 8:45 AM Dr. Jude F. Almura	Upcoming Events and Meetings in the Management of a Bouver Heart Failure	
9:00 - 9:45		DR. IRIMOBONDO B. CALLEJA PROFESSORIAL LECTURE <i>Cardiovascular Ultrasound:</i> Dated vs. Gold Standard 9:15 AM Dr. Jude F. Almura	PLENARY LECTURE 1 <i>Another member Disease among Asian Youth in Children: The Effect of Obesity, Adiposity and Unusual Adiposity</i> 9:45 AM Dr. Arnold S. Aquino Dr. Jude F. Almura Dr. Andrew R. Lang Dr. Ralph R. Ray	DR. RODOLFO C. SOTO PROFESSORIAL LECTURE <i>Current Status of Anti-Platelet Regimen</i> 10:15 AM Dr. Jude F. Almura
9:45 - 10:00		Visit Exhibits	Visit Exhibits	Visit Exhibits
10:00 - 12:00	REGISTRATION Lower Ground Floor Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetic Patients Dinner followed by Off-Pump CABG	Poster Session - A 10:00 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 10:15 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 10:30 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 10:45 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 11:00 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 11:15 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 11:30 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics	Poster Session - A 10:00 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 10:15 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 10:30 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 10:45 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 11:00 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 11:15 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics 11:30 AM Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetics	SIMULTANEOUS Symposia II 10:00 AM Interventions in Hypertension and Stroke Prevention 10:15 AM Dr. Jude F. Almura
10:00 - 10:30				
10:30 - 11:00				
11:00 - 11:30				
11:30 - 12:00				
12:00 - 2:00	SATellite Sympo Pfizer (8:30 AM) SATO (8:30 AM)	SATellite Sympo Natrapharm (8:30 AM) SATO (8:30 AM) SATO (8:30 AM)	SATellite Sympo Boehringer Ingelheim (8:30 AM) SATO (8:30 AM)	SATellite Sympo Merck (8:30 AM) Carstege (8:30 AM)
2:00 - 3:00		Symposia 1 MAP vs PP in Acute CVA Panel Discussion	Symposia 1 MAP vs PP in Acute CVA Panel Discussion	Symposia III Lipid Lowering Agents in the Management of Diabetes Mellitus Panel Discussion
2:30				
2:30 - 3:00				
3:00 - 3:30				
3:30 - 4:00				
4:00 - 4:30		PULSO NG PUZO DEBATE Dr. Efren R. Vicaldo Dr. Jude F. Almura Dr. Andrew R. Lang Dr. Ralph R. Ray	PULSO NG PUZO DEBATE Dr. Efren R. Vicaldo Dr. Jude F. Almura Dr. Andrew R. Lang Dr. Ralph R. Ray	Visit Exhibits
5:00 - 7:00		Satellite Sympo PNPC Annual Meeting Therapharma dr. Jude F. Almura	Satellite Sympo Narapharm Therapharma dr. Jude F. Almura	Annual Business Meeting dr. Jude F. Almura
7:00		Fellowship Night JULI 2006		President's Night JULY 2006



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Soul food at Dusit Hotel this May

FOOD IS A CELEBRATION OF LIFE'S ABUNDANCE. It satisfies our need for nourishment to sustain our well-being. Food, without doubt, affects our mood in one way or another, but most importantly brings pleasure to our soul.

Take an epicurean adventure to the best in Asian cuisine. Go forth... journey with Dusit Hotel Nikko to dining Nirvana!

The Café offers you a taste of the Mediterranean for the month of May and June. Enjoy a repertoire of dishes meticulously prepared by our seasoned chefs showcasing the best in Mediterranean cuisine. Available for lunch and dinner and is pegged at P850++ per person.

For a refreshing feel of the Mediterranean, cool down and quench your thirst with the featured "Lassie" drinks priced at P150++ per glass.

Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant's well loved chef Tun gives you more reasons to spice up your life and experience Thai cuisine created for royalty. Discover an emulsion of flavors as you sample chef Tun's offerings for the month of May and June.

Enjoy a symphony of authentic Japanese flavors as only Benkay can deliver. This May, enjoy a variety of Japanese cuisine specially

created by chef Tomiyama

Fiesta San Miguel gives you many reasons to crave for Filipino cuisine as it offers, on the menu, a unique gastronomic feast

True to Fiesta San Miguel's flare for Filipino food with a twist, the restaurant offers a la carte items for May and June featuring, the tender lamb meat. Sample the "Pinoy style 'Inihaw na Australian Lamb' with conut barbecue sauce and served with pineapple chutney and mashed sweet potatoes and the 'Lamb with Adobo Sau-malungay pesto, among other lamb preparations.

Let Fiesta San Miguel warms your appetite with its hearty soup dishes using different types of noodles matched with meat, seafood and vegetables. Highly recommended is the Japanese style and sour soup varieties on the menu. Available from May to June.

For the drink of the month, experience the smooth blend and calming effect of 'Harmony'- the featured drink for the month of May. 'Harmony' is a rich and refreshing blend of melon liqueur, calamansi juice, simple syrup, orange juice, fresh cantaloupe and a hint of



vodka. An order of 'Harmony' comes with 4 cuddly stuffed toy and is priced at only P400++

The perfect indulgence after a scrumptious meal is a slice or two of the featured cake for the month of May - the 'Pistachio Strawberry Medley'. Sample the tempting interplay of fresh strawberries and pistachio nuts for only P820 nett for a whole cake and P95 nett for a slice. Available at the Deli Shop

For inquiries, call 867-3333.

Barbecue Dinner Buffet at The Bellevue

BARBECUES AND BURGERS GALORE greet visitors of The Bellevue Hotel's Poolside every Friday and Saturday for the Barbecue Dinner Buffet. The hotel's own poolside area at the third floor has al fresco dining and an inviting infinity pool. Several barbecue options and burger choices are available for the food lovers visiting the area. Plus, those checking in have an additional 20 percent discount on this great buffet deal. Available if weather permits. It's the best barbecues, burgers and blissful hotel living only at The Bellevue.

A new way to refresh and detoxify comes



to The Bellevue Spa. Moxa Ventosa is an ancient healing treatment aimed at drawing out toxins from the body through warm glasses, infusing the body with renewed strength and cleansing the spirit from within. Enjoy

it from the calm and inviting interiors of The Bellevue Spa and experience paradise

People, Events & Products

BMW summer promo

BMW IS OFFERING A SPECIAL DEAL ON AIR CONDITIONING and cooling services and parts. From April 1 to June 30, all authorized BMW Dealers are extending a special 20 percent discount on airconditioning as well as cooling system maintenance and repair parts. Additionally, BMW owners who avail of this special offer will be entitled to join a raffle for the chance to win 1 of 4 BMW Sauber F1 Team gift vouchers worth P25,000 each. Beat the summer heat with this special BMW AfterSales offer. The cooling systems promotion is available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Autohaus BMW (Quirino City-Libis), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autozumen BMW (Alabang), Klassik BMW (Quezon City-Araneta-Quezon Avenue), Premier BMW (Pampanga), and Performance BMW (Cebu).

to further boost up their marketing strategies. To give the market a taste of what GfK does, the conference will touch topics on the dynamics and flow of consumer technology in Asia, changing values and lifestyle of Asian consumers, the economic indicators and how they affect the consumer durables market and finally drilling down to the key product features they track from mobile phones, audio visual, to home appliances as well as on consumers' preference on payments.



Lucbanan Food Festival

ON MAY 19 TO 20, CENTURY PARK AND THE LOCAL Government of Lucban, Quezon brings you The Lucbanan Food Festival in Manila. For only P850++ for adults and P500++ for kids, try out the lunch or dinner buffet at Café in the Park's "Tayo na sa Handaan". Check out the trade fair of various native crafts that are available for purchase until May 28. "Banana Blues", the final dance of the Lucbanan experience will cap off the celebration on May 27, 7 p.m. at the Atium Lounge. Dance entrance fee is P500 per person. For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 528-8888 or e-mail information@centurypark.com.ph.

Healthworks 2006

SOCIAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION, WHICH NOT only aims to raise public awareness on multiple sclerosis, cancer and reproductive health issues and at the same time to raise funds that will subsidize medicine and support entrepreneurial projects, introduces "Healthworks 2006: Be Healthy! Be Pampered! Be Well!". Healthworks 2006, the ultimate health and wellness exhibit featuring alternative health products, fitness, recreation, beauty and everything about health and wellness, will be held from May 20 to 21, at the SM Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor SM Megamall Bldg B. The two day activity aims to heighten the awareness and information to the public the importance and benefits of having a good well being both physically and emotionally. For booth reservations and inquiries, call 713-8078 or 714-5432 or e-mail to fusionadteam@ya.com.ph.

GfK holds 1st confab in Phils

GROWTH FROM KNOWLEDGE (GfK) HAS FINALLY decided to plant its roots in the Philippine market as GfK Philippines, one of the youngest member of the GfK Asia Group, and to introduce its setting, GfK Philippines will hold its first annual conference titled, "Forging Connections: A Conference on Consumer Technology Trends & Lifestyle," at the Mandarin Hotel on May 26. As GfK boasts of its global expertise, it also customizes its reports across regions of countries, giving its clients the local knowledge they need

Agusan Adventure Fest

ISLAND CARAVAN PRESENTS THE AGUSAN ADVENTURE FEST, a Wild Green Summer Environmental Summer Camp, on May 25 to 28. It's a great opportunity to learn about the environment and conservation as you engage in educational talks and activities. Camp outdoors and enjoy tropical treks, as well as speleology, rope lessons, climbing, rappelling, and canoeing with expert guides. Interested parties can call Island Caravan at 896-1910, 896-7569, and 896-1993 or e-mail at inquiry@islandcaravan.com.

Product FILES

Ansell quality gloves at World Food Expo 2006

PHILUSA CORPORATION which exclusively distributes

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gloves use in

food prepara-

tion, gardening,

laundry with guaranteed

hand protection (as shown) will be one of

the many products featured at the World

Food Expo (Wofex) 2006 scheduled Aug.

2 to 5 at the World Trade Center. Free seminars,

workshops, and culinary competitions are highlights of the event. For an updated schedule, log on to www.wofex.com

or e-mail Infor@PEPGroup.com or call organizer, Premier Events Plus Group Inc. at

929-7993 or 435-4790, 426-9603, 928-

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Ansell Quality Gloves

at World Food Expo 2006

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Gloves, the

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929-7993 or 435-4790, 426-9603, 928-

0931 or 426-9603.

OBITUARIES*A Message of Gratitude*

JOCELYN CAMPOS HESS
Chairman of the Board

CLINTON CAMPOS HESS
Vice Chairman of the Board

CARLOS C. EJERCITO
President & CEO

in behalf of the

Stockholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff

of

UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.
UNILAB GROUP OF COMPANIES

*convey our sincerest gratitude to everyone
who expressed their sympathy
in our moment of sorrow
with the passing away of*

our beloved

Founder and Chairman Emeritus

Jose Y. Campos



An obituary
with a picture
can be a
fitting tribute
to your
departed
loved one.

Always caring...

**INQUIRER
OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARY
REQUIREMENTS:**

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

**WE ACCEPT
CREDIT CARDS**
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Sinforoso "Baby" P. Ang

July 14, 1941-May 19, 2006

His wife, Celi; children Sonny, Butch, Bobby and Pia, Bing and Vincent; his grandchildren Yza and Isabella; brothers and sisters; nieces and nephews; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ilagan Funeral Homes, Burgos Street, Cabanatuan City.

Funeral Mass will be held on May 21, 2006 at 3:00 PM at the Santuario de Sto. Niño Chapel, Kapitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City. Cremation will follow at 8:00 PM at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe.

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& B2**

"For God so
loved the
world, that
He gave us
His only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
Everlasting
life."

—John 3:16

FILOMENA T. LADIA

(Legionary, Tessum Legion et Marin)

August 10, 1926 May 18, 2006

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 80.

Her beloved sister Marcellina, brother Marcelo, sisters-in-law Luahati Pagsonjan, Cristina Alain, Remy Pirring, nephews and nieces, and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family's residence in Zubiri St., Sta. Rosario, Minalin, Bataan.

Interment will be on May 21, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

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Meet in a five-star hotel • Play golf • Unwind in a spa • Work out • Dine on East-West cuisine
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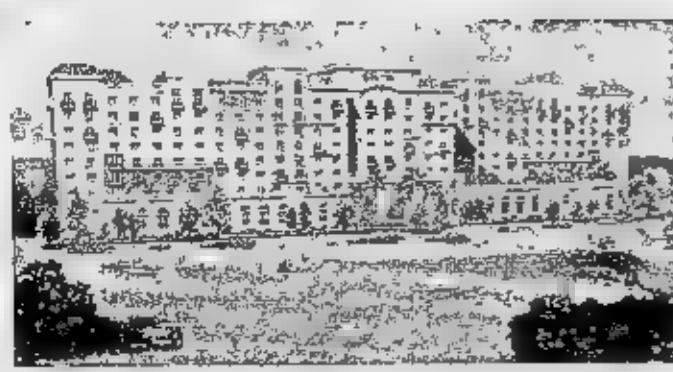
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A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

a luxurious indoor Spa...

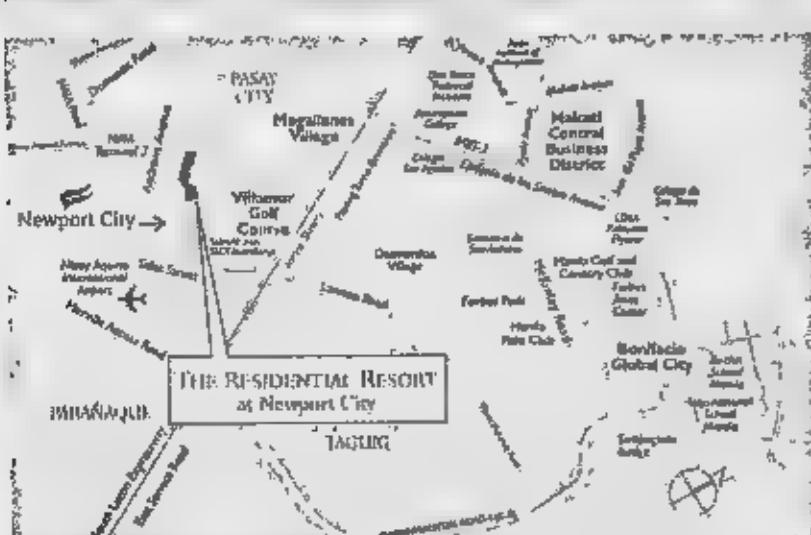


Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, heat and exercise pools and aromatherapy and massage rooms.

and a themed Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex.



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At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts its own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded entrance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe for children.

And the homes are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, fitness station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the arbor with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

Join us on May 21, Sunday,
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Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Megaworld Newport
 Property Holdings, Inc.

PROPERTY

Making paint mixing accurate and easy

By Charles E. Buban

DO YOU HAVE THE right paint color in mind but the mixer just can't get it right? Can't decide on what particular color hue and shade to put on your wall?

Davies will try to solve these and other

problems as one of the country's leading paint companies introduces the Davies Color Factory, a one-stop station that offers state-of-the-art fully computerized color mixing system for paints.

Davies said that before, customers had to wait for at least two to three weeks to have their colors mixed at the factory and is required to have a minimum quantity of 150 liters to 190 liters per color.

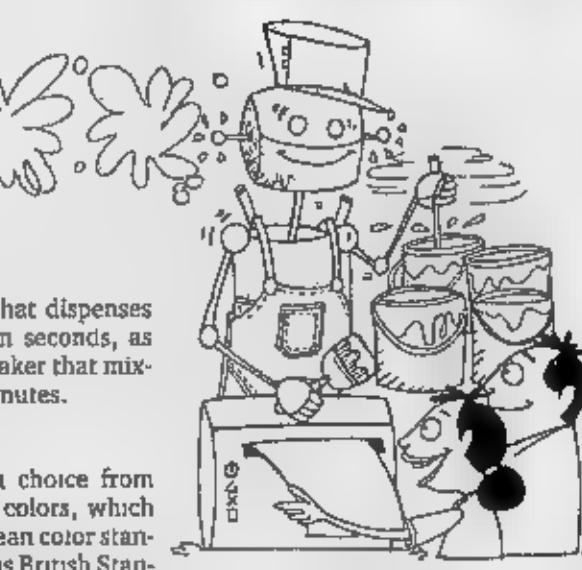
This time Davies announced that their customers can now visit any of these color factory stations and have their paint color prepared in minutes (even if one requires only a liter of the paint).

These color factory stations—located in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and other key cities in Luzon as well as in most home depots and building centers—feature fully automated tinting machines

attached to a computer that dispenses colorants automatically in seconds, as well as a gyro mixer or shaker that mixes paints thoroughly in minutes.

Over 7,000 colors

Customers will have a choice from over 7,000 ready-to-mix colors, which are based from the European color standards or references such as British Stan-



MAKING/ B2-3

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Calamba City ready for Madison South

BARANGAY BATINO IN CALAMBA, LAGUNA RECENTLY WELCOMED THE upcoming world-class subdivision, Madison South, which is being developed by Excelis Land Inc. in partnership with Banco De Oro (BDO).

The celebration, which began with a colorful Madison South motorcade, started from the 14.5-hectare property and worked its way through the city proper. Afterward, guests at the much-awaited soft opening, which was hosted by engineer Dennis Morada, Excelis Land's project officer, were welcomed by Danilo Antonio, chair of Excelis Land. Antonio briefly introduced Madison South as a project that provides a home of only the highest quality.

The event was graced by Calamba City Mayor Joaquin Chipeco, who expressed his high regard for Madison South as a project that will boost the progress of the district.

Antonio, joined by Mayor Chipeco, barangay captain Dimapilis, BDO vice president Joseph Ramil Lambos and Excelis Land EVP and COO Ma. Charina Garcia, inaugurated Madison South in groundbreaking ceremonies.

The project's scale models, comprised of the Madison South subdivision and the three distinct housing styles, each named after the most elegant and charming first ladies in American history: Hillary, Nancy and Jacqueline, were unveiled by the VIP guests after the groundbreaking.

Madison South offers extremely affordable prices and payment plans. It will boast of houses with shingled rooflines, paneled walls in pastel palettes, picket fences and amiable white-outlined doors and windows.

A lot better than metro living

THIS MORNING ROBINSONS HOMES INC. WILL HOLD A SUMMER FIESTA and the inauguration of San Jose Estates' gate and guardhouse to be led by Marilou M. Alferez RHI senior vice president and general manager. Guests of honor are Antipolo City Rep. Victor Sumulong and Mayor Angelito Gallabayan. Also invited are other city and barangay officials, real estate industry leaders and members, and prospective home lot buyers.

San Jose Estates is Robinsons Homes' newest residential development in Antipolo City. Situated on Circumferential Road, it is just a few minutes to and from the city's urban center where commercial centers, schools, hospitals, churches and other establishments are located. To name a few are Ynares Sports Complex, Immaculate Conception Medical Center, Urdinario Medical Center, La Salle School and Assumption College.

This exclusive subdivision offers choice lots to only about 200 homeowners. Available are residential lots with an average cut of 120 square meters, offered at an affordable price. Lot owners have the option of realizing their dream homes through RHI's easy terms on house construction. Future homeowners will also enjoy classy amenities such as parks and playground, gazebo and swimming pool, plus the protection of a gate and guardhouse. For inquiries, please call 395-2661 to 64, or e-mail at rhi@robinsonshomes.com.

Power deals for the handy(wo)man

HANDYMAN DO IT BEST HOME CENTER (HANDYMAN) HAS TEAMED UP WITH Black & Decker (B&D) to honor women DIY-ers—the fastest growing segment of the home improvement marketplace—through discounts and prizes and lots of power deals.

Ongoing until May 25 at Handyman are power deals that allow beginner and intermediate DIY-ers to start up on their personal toolboxes using B&D tools such as Impact or cordless drills and grinders at discounted prices. Women may also enjoy price cuts on selected home essentials such as steam iron, mini vacuum, wooden shelves, dish organizers, weighing scale and even toilet soft seats.

Handyman is also giving away B&D tools like 20 reversing hammer drills, 30 cordless dual speed reversing drill drivers and 50 reversible screwdrivers through a raffle draw. For every P1,000 worth of single-receipt purchase of any B&D tool until June 11, shoppers get a raffle coupon and a chance to win any of these 100 power tools. Raffle draw will be on June 23 at Handyman Do It Best Home Center in Robinsons Place Pioneer.

Investing in real estate

A 15-TOPIC SERIES OF LECTURES ON THE DIFFERENT HOW-TOS OF INVESTING IN Real Estate will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate from 1:30 to 6 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from June 26 to July 28 at the Maximo Function Room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, Giorietta 2, Ayala Center Makati City.

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone are as follows: Investing In Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What Are Needed to Learn before Investing—June 26; Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration—June 28; Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties—June 30; Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects—July 3; Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment—July 5; How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company—July 7; Making Big Money in Distressed Properties—July 10; How-to of Real Property Appraisal—July 12; Property Development Principles and Updates on HILRB Rules and Regulations—July 14; How-to of Installment Sales and Lease-to-Own Scheme—17; Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis—July 19; Mathematics of Real Estate Investment—July 21; Real Estate Accounting: Avoiding Violations and Penalties—July 24; How to Prevent and Remedy Foreclosure—July 26, and Buying and Financing Your First Home: What You Must Know—July 28.

This lecture series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted resource speaker on land laws, and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 35 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. For other details, call Urban Institute at 681-0828 or 0916-426-9174 or e-mail at urban@pacific.net.ph.

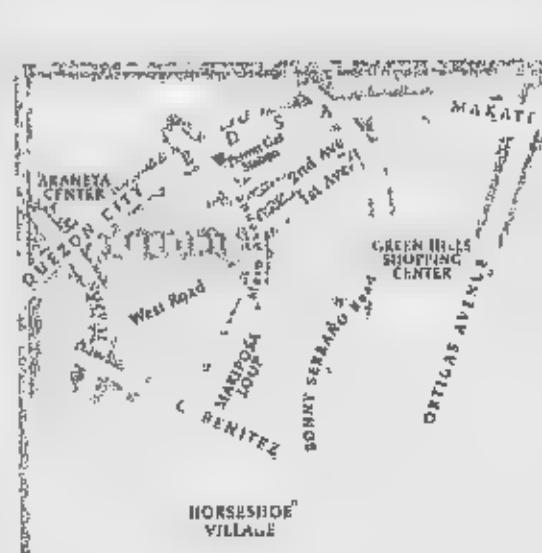


METROPOLITAN GROUNDBREAKING

The Metropolitan Towers, a project by Philtown Properties, recently held the groundbreaking ceremony near the Metropolitan Athletic Club on Estrella Street, Makati. It will have special Sky loft units, which are furnished suites, and some with 20-foot full-view glasses. Present during the groundbreaking are, from left, Philtown SVP for operations Mon Bienvenida, Jacob Ben-Moshe, Jess dela Fuente, Tina Periquet, Carlos Syquia, Philtown president and COO Terry Coronel, architect Meloy Casas, MAC president Francisco Buencamino and Philtown SVP for sales and marketing Kit Vergara.



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Designing against roof leaks

NOW THAT THE RAINY SEASON IS COMING, it is again time to look at our houses and buildings with an eye to avoiding problems regarding roof leaks. As in many other instances, it is better to prepare and prevent problem situations from arising, rather than having to drain and patch an already leaking roof. An essential part of prevention is proper planning and design.

Simplicity is the key. The simpler the roofing configuration, the less chances you have of leaks. A simpler plan also precludes less maintenance considerations. Roofing costs are lower too. A complicated roofing design may look good on paper, but not when you start spending a fortune on repair and maintenance. At the onset, pose the challenge of a simple roof design to your architect and ask him to exercise his creativity elsewhere.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



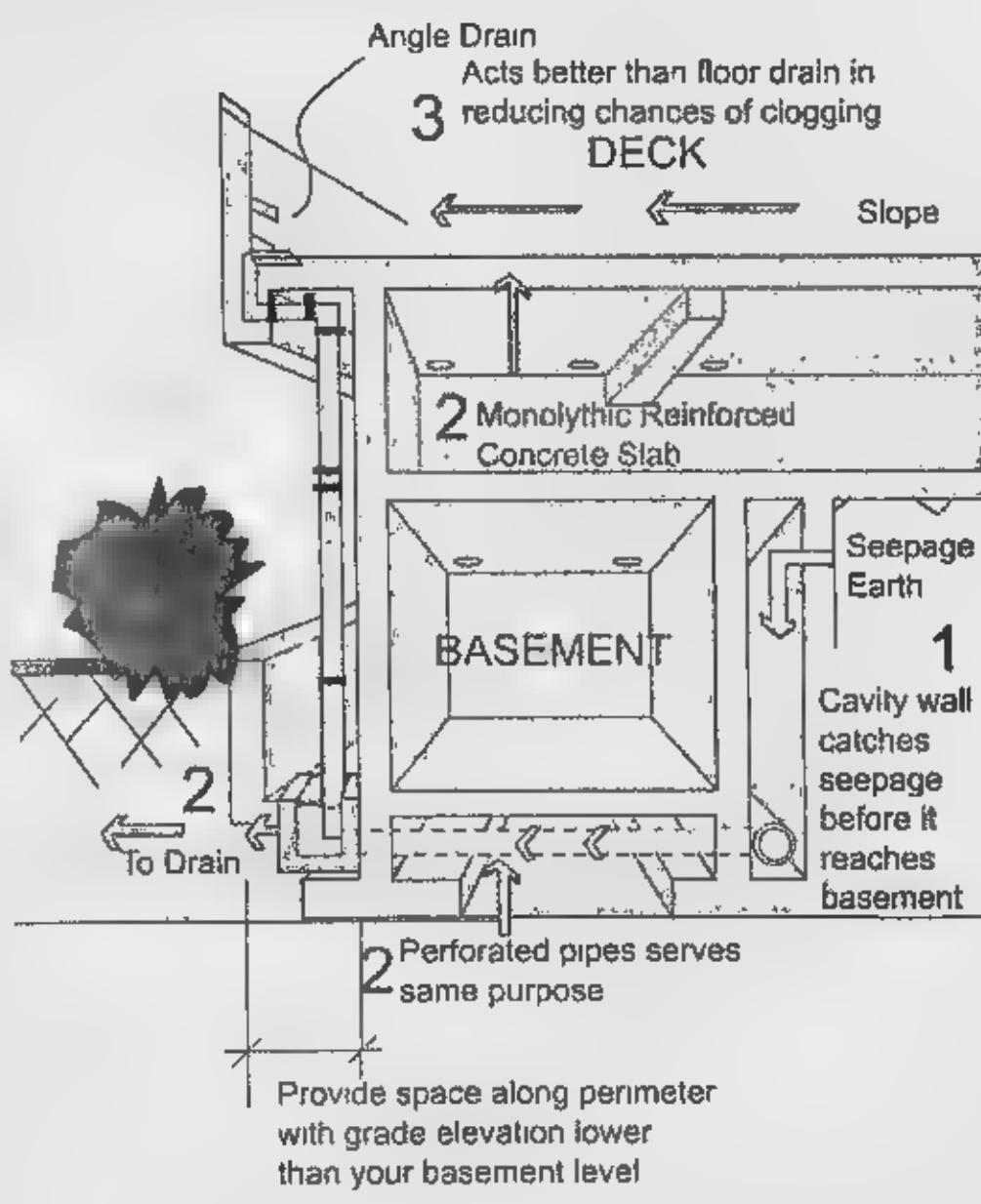
Marcos de Guzman Jr.

Consider good roofing material. Manufacturers would know the ideal roofing material for your building type, as well as how best to install the material you prefer. Consider their recommendation, it is not only product knowledge they bring to the fore, but the strength of product warranty that you can fall back on later. They can likewise suggest the correct undersheeting for your roof tiles or the proper slope required by other materials you may choose.

Basic guide

Water should flow or drain away from the building. Remembering this basic guide when considering the structure, may help you avoid leaky situations. Avoid inside gutters. The faster the water drains from your roof the better. The less potential clogging areas there are, the easier it is to maintain.

Roof decks do not have to be potential leak sources, as long as they are monolithic, properly reinforced and drain properly to external collector drains. Wall-angle or scupper drains or wire basket strainer drains are better than the regular floor drains for decks. Leaves and litter may cause the latter to clog, increasing the chance of leaks. Provide adequate down-



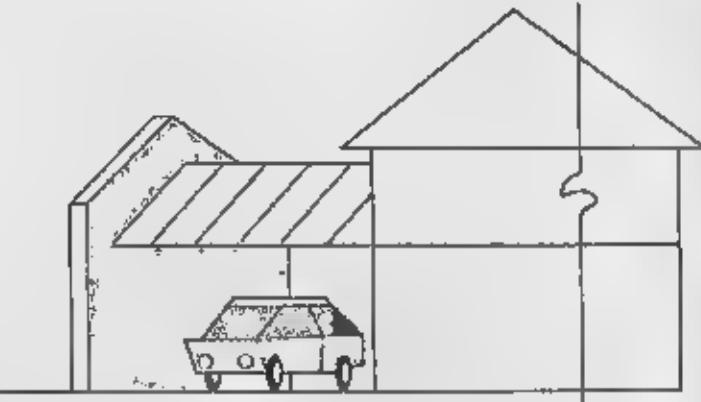
spouts, enough to prevent clogging especially during strong rain. Take note that it is easier to service these spouts from the ground rather than from the roof.

For rooms below grade, prioritize ways to drain the water away faster, rather than methods to prevent water from seeping in. This is where perforated pipe drains and double cavity walls work better than waterproofing.

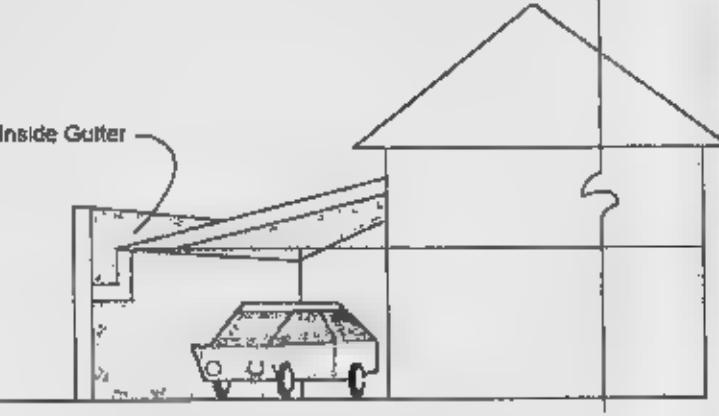
Provide cleaning and maintenance access

Even before the need arises, ask your architect, sanitary engineer or developer for the proper way to maintain your storm drains. They must have ready and practical solutions to its accessibility and cleaning.

Do not depend on waterproofing chemicals. The roofing system should not leak even without a layer of waterproofing. The application of chemicals must only be a second line of defense. If you are dependent on it, expect higher regular maintenance costs.



APPROPRIATE: Garage roof slopes towards Front



INAPPROPRIATE: Garage roof slopes towards supporting wall

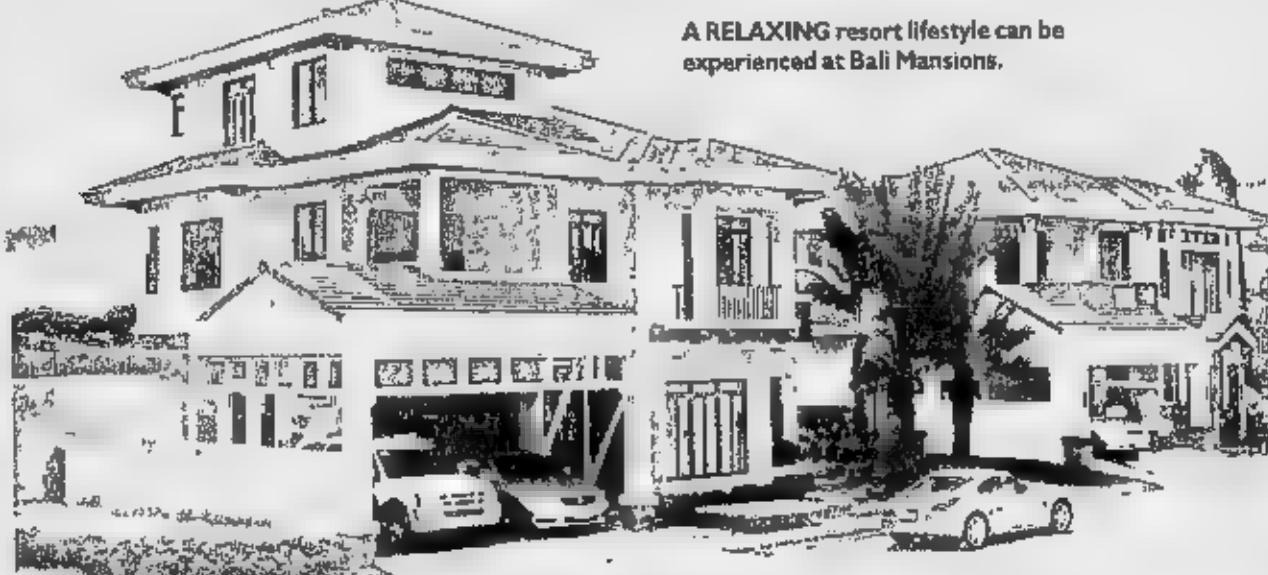
Artistic draining system

Draining systems can be handled artistically. Chains and collector vases may be used in place of downspouts.

In Europe, a more sensible approach has been to construct downspouts that are much bigger than gutters. In Japan, trenches are used in lieu of gutters. Stones are arranged in the trenches in such a way that they produce soothing sounds when hit by rainwater falling from the roof. In other countries, concealed water drainpipes are replaced by open shallow swells which are easier to maintain.

It is time to rethink standard practices and turn to more practical approaches to roof design, particular for our extreme weather conditions. We can research schemes that may be unused here but have worked elsewhere. This capacity to adapt and innovate, combined with practicality and artistic creativity, will help us achieve the perfect leak-resistant roof.

An essential part of prevention is proper planning and design



A RELAXING resort lifestyle can be experienced at Bali Mansions.

South Forbes to energize new real estate boom



CATHAY Land president Jeffrey Ng

NOW THAT PROPERTY SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY FIRM CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) is projecting a long-term recovery and appreciation in property values starting this year, the world-class project of South Forbes Golf City is poised to further energize—and capitalize on—the projected property boom.

Said CBRE in its recently released Asia Pacific Investment Review for the second half of 2005. "With...the announcement of a number of new projects across all major real estate sectors, the real estate market appears to be entering the beginning of long-term recovery, a trend that will see property values begin to appreciate this year."

No way to go but up

The firm also noted that office space rentals and sales in business districts have no way to go but up with continued demand from call centers and business process outsourcing (BPO) firms.

As for activity in the luxury residential segment, CBRE mentioned that sales will be driven by large-scale condominium and residential projects for the middle class and high-end leisure housing developments. The company noted that sales in this particular sector will likely be fueled by remittances from overseas-based Filipinos and the need of the expatriate community for posh residences.

The CBRE research in particular singled out one world-class project: South Forbes. "One such retirement/leisure project worth noting is Cathay Land's new South Forbes Golf City. Located south of Metro Manila, this 250-hectare, P5.25-billion project will become the country's world-class golf resort city, combining residen-

tial, leisure, business, commercial and golf amenities in one location," CBRE specified.

Fastest selling

For his part, Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng noted that South Forbes' unique offering of themed developments has made it the fastest-selling golf residential community in the country today. The charming homes at the Mediterranean Villas are ideal for starting families. The resort-inspired residences at Bali Mansions and the Zen community of Tokyo Mansions, meanwhile, are much sought after by those belonging to the high-end market.

Another project, Golf View Terraces, is a best-seller among top individuals who are looking forward to having the vista of the fairways of the world-class 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club from their units' balconies on a daily basis. "This condo project is ideal for overseas-based Filipinos and foreigners," Ng noted.

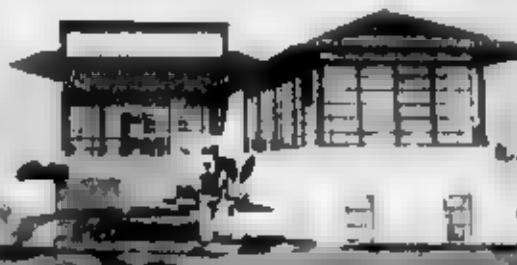
South Forbes' remarkable sales milestones can be attributed to its unbeatable offering to investors and potential residents: a free golf membership, at no activation fee, to the South Forbes Golf Club. This course was designed by no other than Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG). South Forbes, as the first and only affiliate of the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub, also gives member-residents worldwide perks. They can play and get huge discounts in 42 top golf courses in Asia, North America and Europe.

Another themed dev't

To continue whetting the appetite of the investor and homeowner markets for more innovative projects, South Forbes is set to launch another themed development, Chateaux de Paris, within the next few weeks.

"As the name implies, Chateaux de Paris will feature homes inspired by the grandeur of the lovely city of Paris and sprawling gardens," Ng said. He added that this innovative project will further promote South Forbes as a choice investment for Filipinos.

Wise investors can learn more about the choice investment options at South Forbes simply by calling 635-7777 or 631-8855 or visiting www.southforbes.com.



THE YAMATO is the largest Modern Zen residence at Tokyo Mansions.

Portofino: The new Alabang



THE FLAGSHIP model home of The Masters Collection, Michelangelo is a renaissance in luxurious Italian living.

The same home and lot package has a minimum asking price of close to P11 million. The Raphael, with a 249-sq-m interior, and 306-sq-m lot, is worth P13 million today, and had an original asking price of P10 million.

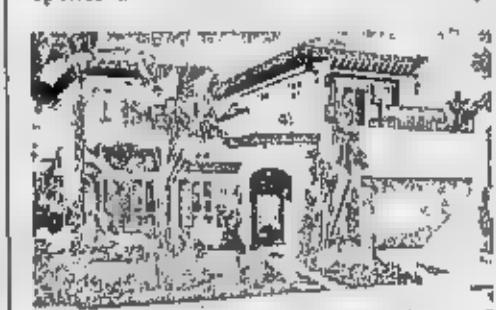
A stunning expanse of rolling terrain and spectacular architecture, Portofino is the premier residential development of the near south, with several phases totaling over 300 hectares. Drawing inspiration from the Italian vision for *la dolce vita*, this expression of what may be the sweetest life possible in the country is a master-planned community that truly understands what it means to live one's life to the fullest. Cobblestones, sun-drenched colors, balconies and cupolas transport its residents to a world like no other.

Major developments

The Italian-Mediterranean theme is consistent at each phase of the project. The first two phases have already been sold out, purchased by new homeowners and property speculators. Among the major Portofino developments are the Courtyards of Portofino and The Masters Collection.

The Courtyard home and lot packages start at P10 million. The Masters Collection offers eight distinctive homes to choose from, starting at about P20 million for the home and lot package. Several of the model homes are now on display, including the 625-sq-m flagship home, The Michelangelo. Lot owners can also have their own custom houses built, but architectural designs must conform to the Italian-Mediterranean design of the community.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.



CEZANNE: This 3-bedroom, 2-floor Mediterranean-inspired home is a masterpiece in both form and function.



A RESPLENDENT dome welcomes visitors to Portofino.

PROPERTY

B2

Making . . .

From page B2-1

dard of the United Kingdom, Natura Color System Europe, RAL Colors of Germany and Nova Colors of Scandinavia.

Additional color selection from Davies' color galleries and other paint companies are also available.

Aside from these color selections, customers can also choose to have their own colors matched using Davies spectrophotometer, a high-tech instrument that gives out the color formula in an instant. The matched colors will then be stored in the company's color computer along with the customer's name for future reference and ordering.

"What is also interesting if you visit a Davies Color Factory station is the Color Image program, whereby a photograph of the customer's home or building will be converted digitally and downloaded to a computer. By masking on screen the areas the client want to paint, the Color Image program will place the chosen ready-to-mix color or color combination and a digital printout will be produced so the customer may be able to visualize," related Lilibeth Ducut Abas of LA Ducut and Co., the organizer of the upcoming 14th Construction Show Cebu where this Davies technology will be featured.

Abas said the whole process makes paint mixing much more accurate and less expensive.

Fee waived

Abas added Davies will even waive the service fee from the Color Image processing if the customer decides to have the chosen colors mixed at the Davies Color Factory station.

"To further explain this breakthrough service, the Davies Color Factory station will be set up during the construction show, which will be held from June 2 to June 5 at the Cebu Trade Hall, 3/Floor SM City Cebu," informed Abas.

The Construction Show Cebu (e-mail: show@ladi-cut.com) is the longest and the biggest running annual construction exhibit in the southern Philippines.

CrownAsia wins Trusted Brand award from Reader's Digest

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRY'S biggest builder of homes and master-planned communities for urban housing, is a winner in the Reader's Digest's 8th annual survey of brand performance, having been voted a Trusted Brand in the Philippine property market.

With its leadership in building homes and communities for middle-income families not only in Metro Manila but all over the country, CrownAsia earned a Gold Trusted Brand Award in the survey. The Gold award is a category for brands nominated by participants that score well above their competitors. Survey respondents scored brands for six core qualities: trustworthiness, credibility of image, quality value, how well the brand understands consumers' needs, and its ability to in-

tegrate developing an upgraded line of residential community projects.

"From the start, our focus has been to help middle-income families build homes and communities that will fulfill their lifelong dreams," said Jerry Navarette, CrownAsia president. "Each of our communities combines strategic location and well-planned land use, offering homeowners a range of opportunities within a single, self-contained and environmentally responsible community," he added.

Track record

With a track record established over the last decade, CrownAsia is a pioneer Master-Planned Community (MPC) Developer in the Philippines, commit-

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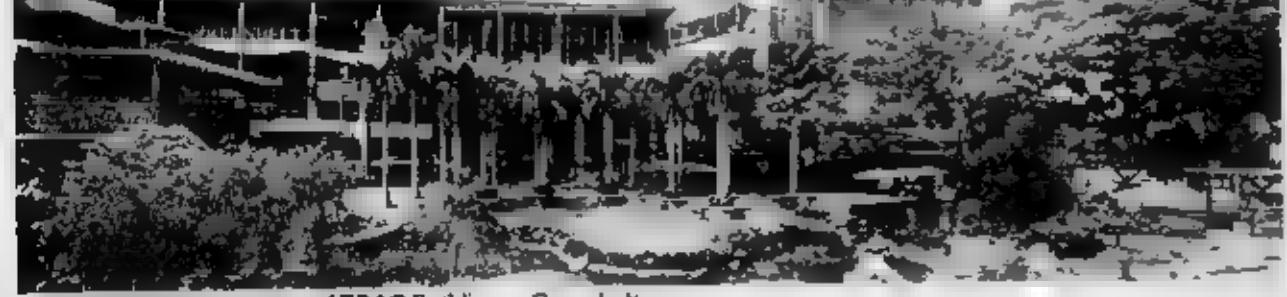
B2-4

THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT

High living on solid ground

THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING THE HIGH LIFE IN Makati will become a reality when The Residences at Greenbelt, the latest and most luxurious condominium offering from Ayala Land Premier, rises right in the heart of Greenbelt and the Makati shopping district.

A division of Ayala Land, the prime developer of choice



ARCHITECT'S perspective of TRAG Building in Greenbelt

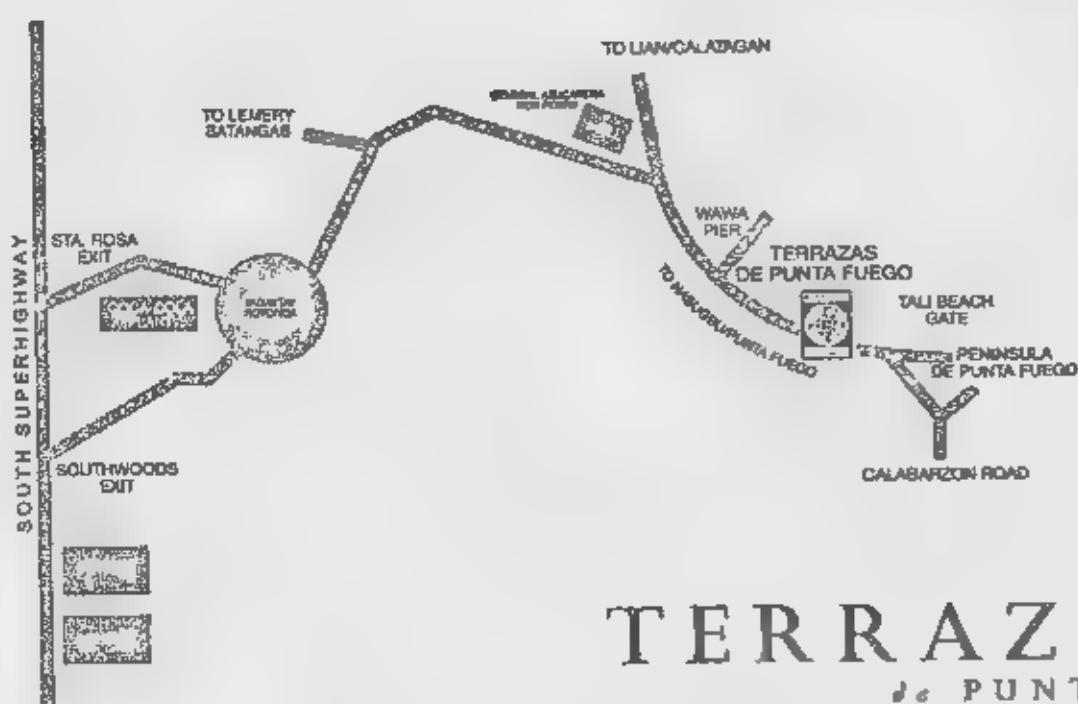
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with a solid and undisputable history of integrity and reliability, Ayala Land Premier is the only high-end real estate developer in the Philippines and in the region as well that could arguably provide property owners with only the best master-planned living spaces and structures. This is because Ayala Land Premier teams up with only the best partners and consultants in the various fields involved in property development, who are at par with this industry leader's years of experience and capability.

Structural integrity

For such a lofty goal as The Residences at Greenbelt, structural engineer Aromin & Sy has worked very closely with Ayala Land Premier from the inception of the project, ensuring the structural integrity of the groundbreaking development in Makati City.

The foundations of The Residences at Greenbelt's initial two towers—the Laguna and the San Lorenzo—currently under construction and on track for turnover in the very near future, are set at 13 to 18 meters below the ground. The site upon which The Residences at Greenbelt stands consists of solid adobe bedrock, as confirmed by numerous soil tests conducted in the area. This was also reconfirmed by Aromin & Sy and geotechnical consultant Dr. Salvador Reyes.

As The Residences at Greenbelt proceeds full steam ahead with its scheduled completion and turnover, Ayala Land Premier has brought in one of the world's most respected structural consulting firms to fortify the project's reliability and give assurance to unit owners that their dream of high life comes even closer to reality.

Magnusson Klemencic Associates Inc. (MKA), an 82-year-old company with projects in 46 states and 40 countries and has engineered some of the most significant structural and civil engineering projects in the world. MKA president Ron Klemencic is chair of the Tall Buildings Council, an international organization established to facilitate professional exchanges among all those involved in all aspects of the planning, design, construction and operation of tall buildings. MKA is actually no stranger to The Residences at Greenbelt as it had already been part of the conceptualization of project from the very beginning.

Assurance

MKA principal Larry G. Carlson visited the site last March 27 and noted that both the Laguna and San Lorenzo Towers of The Residences at Greenbelt are supported on a mat foundation bearing on bedrock at elevations ranging from 13 to 18 meters below street level.

He emphasized that any ground or clay soil layer movements within the immediate vicinity of the project site, though technically no longer even within the scope of responsibility or property of Ayala Land Premier, has negligible, if no effect at all on the structural soundness of The Residences at Greenbelt.

Ideal location

"The location of The Residences is definitely ideal for high-rise projects," he emphasized.

Centrally located right at Greenbelt, the country's only lifestyle center, The Residences at Greenbelt is the only condominium development inextricably linked and located within the heart of the Makati Central Business District. It is the embodiment of Ayala Land Premier's commitment to providing exemplary living standards for the cosmopolitan dweller. Ayala Land Premier (ALP) is the new name for the top-end developments of Ayala Land providing exclusivity, security, ultimate comfort and privacy. It embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses.

SM Mall of Asia opens tomorrow

ENVISIONED AS THE PREMIERE DESTINATION in the Asia Pacific region, the SM Mall of Asia opens its doors to the public tomorrow.

Attractions awaiting shoppers during the opening include a panoramic view of the world famous Manila Bay, the country's first Imax theater and first Olympic-size ice skating rink, over 600 local and international brands as well as over 150 indoor and al fresco dining outlets.

The 386,000-square-meter mall is located on a 19-hectare property on Bay Boulevard in Pasay City. It is SM Prime Holdings' 25th supermall and the company's most ambitious project to date.



FOUNTAINS

The complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways—the Main Mall, the North Parking Building, the South Parking Building, and the Entertainment Center Building.

The Main Mall will include shopping and dining establishments, the Food Court and the country's first Olympic-size ice skating rink. The South Parking Building will house the SM department store and half of the 5,000 parking spaces.

The North Parking Building will include the SM Hypermarket and more dining areas. Internal north and south streets were converted to landscaped pedestrian walkways, with outdoor retail and dining tenants.

One of the mall's attractions is the Entertainment Center Building, which will offer a spectacular view of the Bay with outdoor dining balconies and landscaped terraces. It will house 10 theaters, including a Director's Club and the country's first Imax theater.

The Mall of Asia's breathtakingly beautiful design is essentially abstract and modern. The curvilinear planes can be read either as sails or waves or wings, and it is this very abstraction which renders the design timeless, constantly reinvented in people's eyes.

The mall's interiors were designed with the customers in mind. Shop frontages and balustrades are largely glass in order to maximize views of the merchandise. Circular forms like waves, zigzags, and ovals also allow better views of the shop when viewed obliquely. Shop fronts, skylights, floor, and ceilings, while striking in design, are kept simple. In general, the interiors are kept clean and free of unnecessary details, so that they will not overpower the tenants and their merchandise.

While the mall's exteriors are partly based on functional considerations, the design goes beyond mere functionality, giving a more dynamic aesthetic to the mall. Exterior walls are expressed as curving planes, intersecting with oval forms at the entrances and performance areas. Skylights are a varied progression of squares and oval forms.

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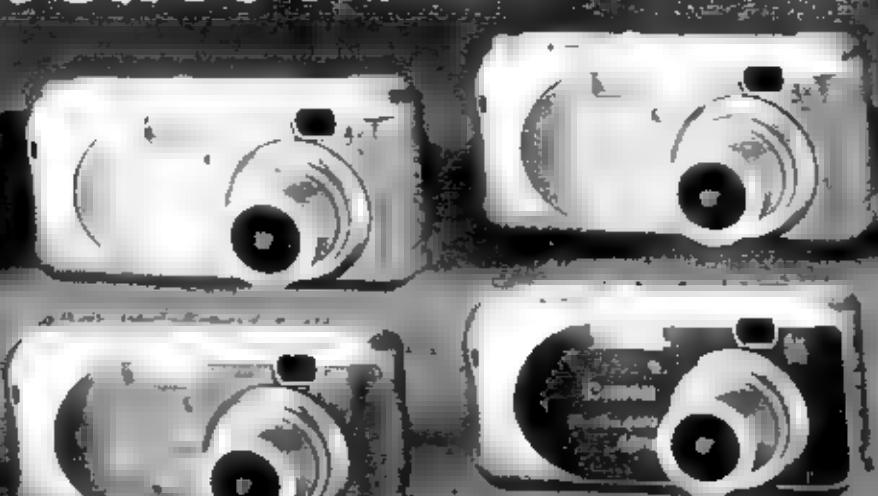
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Da Vinci'd and Confused

By Pepe Diokno

THIS IS GREAT. Everyone seems to want to talk about "The Da Vinci Code." (And boy, must Columbia Pictures be happy.) It's been all over this paper, all over TV and on the Internet. It's a media frenzy!

Then again, you already know that. You know all the hoopla surrounding it. The uninitiated don't even have to flip a page of the book to know what it's about. We all know its claims, and the counter-claims. And we also know how over some people are getting over it.

There are groups who want it banned, groups who want a disclaimer inserted before the film, and a government official who says it shouldn't even be talked about lest we "get struck by lightning." (That was last week's "Proof our government officials are modern men" moment.)

I'm not saying these people are crazy. I know they're not backward-thinking, close-minded people, who are trying to protect their own glass towers. No. They just obviously care about the youth of today, whose minds shouldn't be corrupted.

Oh yes, the youth. We've heard from theologians, and a bevy of other "-ists," but we have not heard much from us young people. So I gathered a few Super friends, and had a discussion. (Yes, we are capable of that.) Here they are:

Joseph Villanueva is 19, is a student at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), and hopes to major in Business Economics.

Anne Silva, 17, is an incoming freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

CJ de Silva, 18, is a visual artist, and has had four one-woman exhibits. She is a fine arts student at the University of the Philippines.

Ranya Martin is a 21-year-old

filmmaker, has won the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema, was a participant at the Berlinale Talent Campus at the Berlin International Film Fest; and has won the Kodak Achievement Award for 35mm Best Thesis.

We talked about issues related to the book. If you pull your attention away from the "experts" for a moment, you might hear voices that are in the real world.

Why do you think people are so freaked out over the Da Vinci Code?

Anne: I think people are freaked out at movies that deal with religion because we're so defensive about it. We don't want our religion to be questioned, maybe because we don't know what we believe in the first place. We're threatened that we'll stop believing once we see things from a different point of view.

Raya: "The Da Vinci Code" really isn't about the Magdalene proposition or conspiracy within the Church, because there's been other theories sprouting that aren't directly connected to the Da Vinci issues. I think it's about questioning the Church and old institutional traditions. Human society is still largely conservative and challenging older notions and beliefs naturally shakes the human system.

Do you think the book, in any way, attacks one's faith?

Joseph: Jesus Christ is a very sacred figure in the Christian religion and to say that he married a woman and had children with her is quite blasphemous, from a Christian's point of view. However, I do realize that Dan Brown's book is intended as a work of fiction and not as a deliberate attack on the Christian faith.

CJ: It depends on the reader. If the reader lets the book attack his/her faith, then it does attack one's faith. But if the reader takes it just as another fiction novel, there would be no attack.

Anne: I think it attacks one's Christian religion, but not exactly faith.

Raya: Faith is an abstract thing. I think the book bases much on concrete ideas, material ideas. If one's faith is dependent on that, then in a way yes. But you know how that kind of faith goes...

What is faith? Is there a difference between faith and religion?

Raya: Faith is a personal thing. Religion exists in the community.

Joseph: Yeah. Faith is one's belief in something, be it a person, a deity, an ideal or any sort of entity. There is a difference between faith and religion. Religion is usually a more structured set of spiritual beliefs, while faith alone does not usually have any sort of set doctrines and dogmas.

CJ: I'll put it in terms of painting. My passion to paint is my faith. The paper, the watercolor (or any other medium), is my religion. Kumbaga, religion is a vehicle of faith.

Is it possible to have faith without religion? What is your opinion of people who do not adhere to one religion?

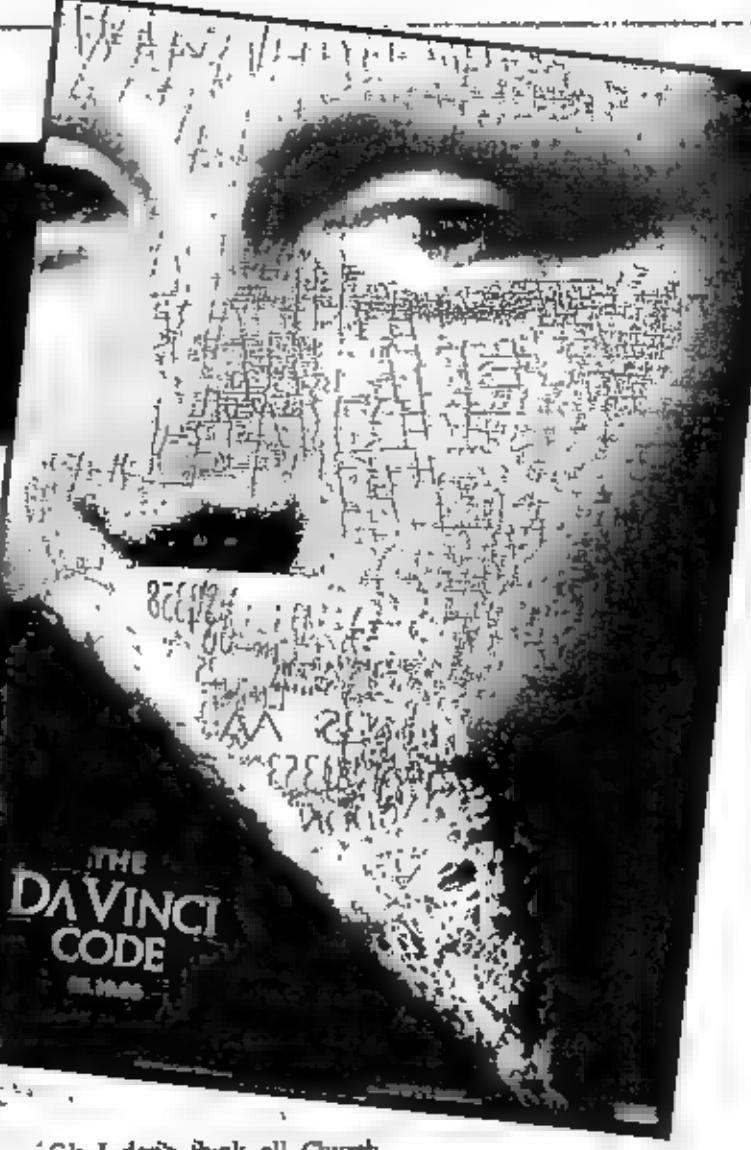
CJ: I don't think that faith without religion is possible. Here's an analogy: water is faith and religion is the bottle. For water to be consumed or "experienced," we need a bottle—or hand—to drink it from.

On the other hand, I think that people (who don't adhere to one religion) are just "maximizing" the privilege to choose. Of course each religion demands one's loyalty, but I think it's more a political issue than a spiritual one.

Anne: I think it's possible to have faith without religion. I think people who do not adhere to one religion are probably not satisfied with one religion's explanations of certain things. By me, they're okay, as long as they don't offend anybody or try to shoot down those who are truly religious.

Do you think that all Church teachings are divinely inspired?

Anne: No. Some teachings just stem from man's insatiable appetite for power. Like the Crusades. True, the Vatican apologized for that, but back then, people thought that killing was correct because the Pope said so. Just shows how even the Church can make faulty teachings. What if what we're being told to believe now is proved to be erroneous in the future?



CJ: I don't think all Church teachings are divinely inspired. I consider the Bible as something divinely inspired, but those who teach it, or interpret it would always have biases, or motives, may it be political or personal. Another example is the Spanish period—isn't it obvious that Church teachings were just icing on top of the cake of colonization?

Do you think God is dismayed or offended by the book?

Anne: If you see it from a religious point of view, you'd say He's offended because you're not supposed to question Him; it's a sin. However, questioning is part of the freedom He has given us. Christianity gives way to religious dialogue, and I think this book should just fall under that. I don't think it's right to condemn religions, but if it happens that they condemn us, we're not supposed to fight back. As the saying goes, "when provoked, respond with love."

CJ: I don't think God is offended at the book itself. I think He might be a bit disappointed at those who read it and took it in the wrong way. I think He is sad that there are people whom he gave enough intellect and heart, yet did not use it. But I think God and Jesus are beyond what the Catholic Church teaches. I think they are considerate enough to see that the world is very diverse. So I think they understand.

Did the book, or its premise,



offend you in any way?

Joseph: As a Christian, yes I do find the book's portrayal of Christ offensive to my religious beliefs.

CJ: I think the people who absorb the book so much are the ones who tend to offend. Isn't it annoying when you meet a Da

Vinci code fanatic who keeps on babbling about the controversial facts the book has, as if it was the only truth in the whole world? That's offending. When somebody lets you question your faith or disproves it just because he/she read the Da Vinci code that's offensive.

But the people who judge the book negatively are also offensive. It's okay if you express that you didn't like it because you just simply did not like it. But for people to actually say it's a bad novel because it features several controversies about the Catholic faith, they're bad. People who take the book with a close mind are the ones who tend to become offensive.

Raya: I think it's an interesting perspective to have. It's premise tests one's openness to views rather than offend.

How old do you think one should be to read the book or watch the movie? (It was given an R18 rating here.)

CJ: It's not an issue of how old I've met kids who are smart enough to understand the novel or the movie, without getting too obsessed with it. And yet there may be people in their 50's or 40's who are not open minded enough to get the novel or the movie. I'm not in the place to tell people what to watch and what not to watch. It's a personal choice.

What do you think of efforts to ban the movie? (It was recently banned in the City of Manila.)

Anne: They are futile. The more attention is given to it, the more people will become curious and desperate to see it. They'll find ways. The more it's suppressed, the more antagonistic it will become.

CJ: I think it's ridiculous. Movies produced are bound to offend at least some people. That does not mean it should be banned. If you think a movie is going to offend you, then perhaps you should not see it, but there are a lot of people who might not find the movie offensive, and banning the movie would be unfair to them.

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Da Vinci'd and Confused

By Pepe Diokno

THIS IS GREAT. Everyone seems to want to talk about "The Da Vinci Code" (And boy, must Columbia Pictures be happy.) It's been all over this paper, all over TV and on the Internet. It's a media frenzy!

Then again, you already know that. You know all the hoopla surrounding it. The uninitiated don't even have to flip a page of the book to know what it's about. We all know its claims, and the counter claims. And we also know how some people are getting over it.

There are groups who want it banned, groups who want a disclaimer inserted before the film, and a government official who says it shouldn't even be talked about lest we "get struck by lightning." (That was last week's "Proof our government officials are modern men" moment.)

I'm not saying these people are crazy. I know they're not backward-thinking, close-minded people who are trying to protect their own glass towers. No. They just obviously care about the youth of today, whose minds shouldn't be corrupted.

Oh yes, the youth. We heard from theologians, and a bevy of other "ists," but we have not heard much from us young people. So I gathered a few Super friends, and had a discussion. (Yes, we are capable of that.) Here they are:

Joseph Villanueva is 19, is a student at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), and hopes to major in Business Economics.

Anne Silva, 17, is an incoming freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

CJ de Silva, 18, is a visual artist, and has had four one-woman exhibits. She is a fine arts student at the University of the Philippines.

Raya Misa is a 21-year-old

filmmaker, has won the Ishmael Berna Award for Young Cinema, was a participant at the Berlin International Film Festival, and has won the Kodak Achievement Award for 35mm Best Thesis.

We talked about issues related to the book. If you pull your attention away from the "experts" for a moment, you might hear voices that live in the real world.

Why do you think people are so freaked out over the Da Vinci Code?

Anne: I think people are freaked out at movies that deal with religion because we're so defensive about it. We don't want our religion to be questioned, maybe because we don't know what we believe in in the first place. We're threatened that we'll stop believing once we see things from a different point of view.

Raya: "The Da Vinci Code" really isn't about the Magdalene proposition or conspiracy within the Church, because there's been other theories sprouting that aren't directly connected to the Da Vinci issues. I think it's about questioning the Church and old institutional traditions. Human society still largely conservative and challenging older notions and beliefs naturally shakes the human system.

Do you think the book, in any way, attacks one's faith?

Joseph: Jesus Christ is a very sacred figure in the Christian religion and to say that he married a woman and had children with her is quite blasphemous from a Christian's point of view. However, do realize that Dan Brown's book is intended as a work of fiction and not as a clear-cut attack on the Christian faith.

CJ: It depends on the reader. If the reader lets the book attack his/her faith, then it does attack one's faith. But if the reader takes it just as another fiction novel, there would be no attack.

Anne: I think it attacks one's Christian religion, but not exactly faith.

Raya: Faith is an abstract thing. I think the book bases much on concrete ideas, material ideas. If one's faith is dependent on that, then in a way yes. But you know how that kind of faith goes.

What is faith? Is there a difference between faith and religion?

Raya: Faith is a personal thing. Religion exists in the community.

Joseph: Yeah. Faith is one's belief in something, be it a person, a deity, an ideal or any sort of entity. There is a difference between faith and religion. Religion is usually a more structured set of spiritual beliefs, while faith alone does not usually have any sort of set doctrines and dogmas.

CJ: I'll put it in terms of painting. My passion to paint is my faith. The paper, the watercolor (or any other medium), is my religion. Kumbaga, religion is a vehicle of faith.

Is it possible to have faith without religion? What is your opinion of people who do not adhere to one religion?

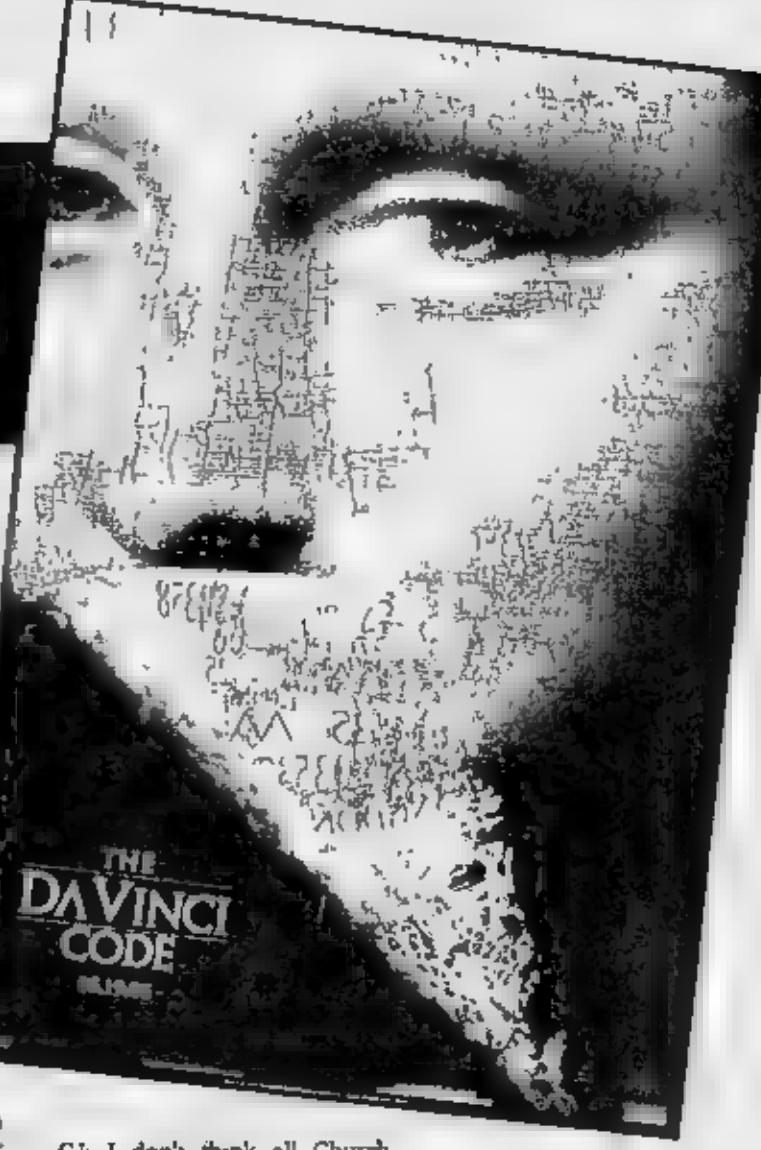
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Do you think that all Church teachings are divinely inspired?

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Raya: I think it's an interesting perspective to have. It presents one's openness to views rather than offend.

How old do you think one should be to read the book or watch the movie? (It was given an R-18 rating here.)

CJ: It's not an issue of how old I've met kids who are smart enough to understand the novel or the movie, without getting too obsessed with it. And yet there may be people in their 50s or 40s who are not open minded enough to get the novel or the movie. I'm not in the place to tell people what to watch and what not to watch. It's a personal choice.

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Summer reminiscing



A PLUS. Addict endorsers Cristina Garcia and Tim Yap enjoy the sunset



WHAT A SIGHT. Kelly Misa is addicted to sunny cocktails



SUNNY SIDE UP Anne Curtis just does it for us.



NESTLE CHICK. Mylene Dizon is one sexy momma



FITNESSE FAB. Reema Chanco at the Nestle Fitnesse event



BEACH BUBS. Bubbles Paraiso donning Nike's latest eyewear



FITNESSE ICON. Jackie Lou Blanco embodies healthy living



FREEDOM FROM FAT. Nancy Castiglione celebrates her figure



Around the island, Super! contributing photojournalist Ramon Mangria was taking snapshots of hipsters wearing Nike Vision, the sporty eyewear of choice of my Addict mobile maes Cristina Garcia, Kelly Misa and Brent Javier. Actors Jackie Castiglione, Michael de Mesa and Paolo Paraiso also bathed in the sun donning these as pretty young things Anne Curtis and Bubbles Paraiso turned heads.

Ah summer!



SUMMER HOLIDAY. Ricardo Po and Trish Panilao spotted at Pier One

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Photos by Juan Capulca

Movie's caused a frenzy, so let's turn to level (and younger) minds

what's right and what's wrong. It makes me feel bad.

Raya: We're going back to the medieval times.

Do you think that the government is right to ban movies in general?

Raya: No.

Joseph: In my opinion, the only time a government has the right to ban any movie is during a time of war, when the movie in question could significantly lower the country's morale. Aside from that, no I do not think a government should ban movies.

Anne: Porn. I'm talking about the kind you see in those really old cinemas; the ones where sexual acts are done in the movie—and in the movie house. If the government can curb that garbage, then maybe we'd have a better society.

CJ: I think it's wrong. I think in a democratic country like ours, there should always be a choice. Banning a movie doesn't make Filipinos smarter; it just makes us ignorant.

What do you think of cutting movies? (Censors cutting "questionable" parts of a movie.)

Anne: I think it's okay, especially in films that are exaggeratedly gory or sexual, but still have good content. I'm a fan of films which are just suggestive and entail the use of your own imagination. It makes you more engaged in watching the movie and analyzing events.

CJ: It's very disrespectful to the vision of the filmmaker if the filmmaker puts it in the film, then somehow, it is needed. Cutting scenes equates to cutting the message the film wants to express.

Raya: I'm totally against censorship. It beats the artist's purpose of freedom of expression. They say we don't have censorship in the Philippines, but the system clearly has a heavy hand on things.

The Philippine government has banned movies like "Live Show" and "The Last Temptation".

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Anne: I think we're threatened by things we don't know about. We're not as educated as we may think we are. When we see these things we don't know how to deal with, we'd rather not see it at all.

CJ: I think our society is struggling in a battle against ignorance and blind morality. There are people who still see fellow Filipinos as little, naive kids who are unable to understand these kinds of movies. I also think that we have this "plastic" mentality wanting to mask everything that's "unpleasant." Let's take the movie Live Show. This film was banned for having highly sexual scenes and profanity. But this movie is roughly based on real life situations. Live shows actually happen; people cuss on streets

when they're angry. That's what draws me to the conclusion that Filipino society is still immature—it denies the reality instead of facing it. We also don't try to see things in different perspectives.

Raya: I don't think this says much about Filipino society but more of a certain controlling class who assumes an authoritarian role in society. I think it says a lot about how the government is presumptuous of the society itself. It's like "they can't handle it" but really it's them who can't. I believe the people are smart enough to assess things by themselves, and it's really offensive to become in a position and say, "hey, this will shake people's beliefs." It's their faith that's futile, and that's why they're scared.

Will you watch "The Da Vinci Code"?

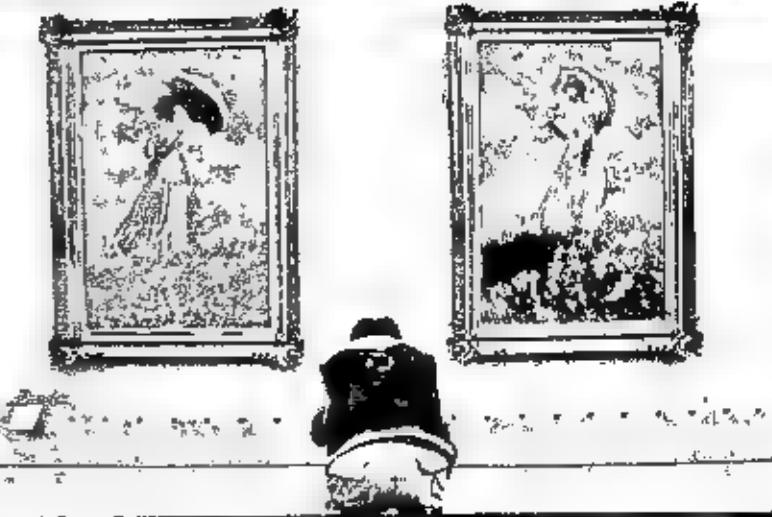
Joseph: Yes I will. I want to see what all the hype is about, and I must admit that the trailer makes the movie seem really interesting.

CJ: I will. I think it's a good movie.

Raya: Maybe not because it's Ron Howard. But I'll end up watching it anyway one of these days. Haven't heard anything positive about the movie though. And not just from religious extremists.

Anne: I'd like to watch it, but I can't yet. & ^%* R-18 rating! So I guess I'm stuck with the book. For now.

Email the author at pepe@rampepe.com



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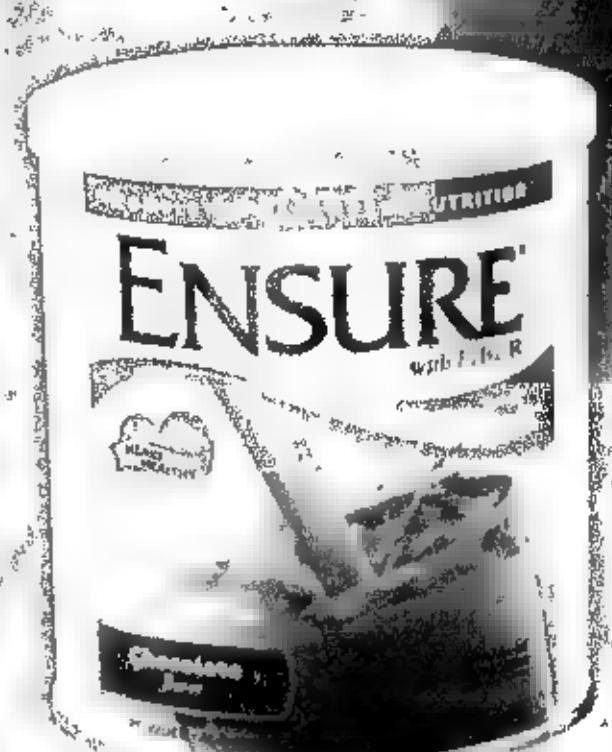
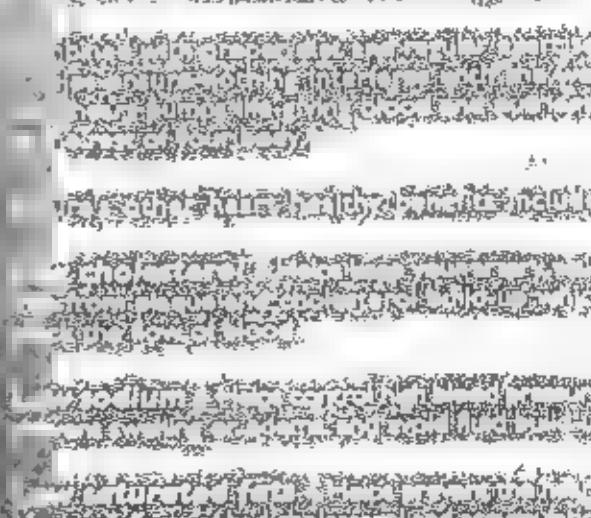


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Anne: I think we're threatened by things we don't know about. We're not as educated as we may think we are. When we see these things we don't know how to deal with, we'd rather not see it at all.

CJ: I think our society is struggling in a battle against ignorance and blind morality. There are people who still see fellow Filipinos as little, naive kids who are unable to understand these kinds of movies. I also think that we have this "plastic" mentality wanting to mask everything that's "unpleasant." Let's take the movie Live Show. This film was banned for having highly sexual scenes and profanity. But this movie is roughly based on real life situations. Live shows actually happen, people cuss on streets

when they're angry. That's what draws to me to the conclusion that Filipino society is still immature—it denies the reality instead of facing it. We also don't try to see things in different perspectives.

Raya: I don't think this says much about Filipino society but more of a certain controlling class who assumes an authoritative role in society. I think it says a lot about how the government is presumptuous of the society itself. It's like "they can't handle it" but really it's them who can't. I believe the people are smart enough to assess things by themselves, and it's really offensive to become in a position and say, "hey, this will shake people's beliefs." It's their faith that's futile, and that's why they're scared.

Will you watch "The Da Vinci Code"?

Joseph: Yes I will. I want to see what all the hype is about, and I must admit that the trailer makes the movie seem really interesting.

CJ: I will. I think it's a good movie.

Raya: Maybe not because it's Ron Howard. But I'll end up watching it anyway one of these days. Haven't heard anything positive about the movie though. And not just from religious extremists.

Anne: I'd like to watch it, but I can't yet. & ^%* R-18 rating! So I guess I'm stuck with the book. For now.

Email the author at pepe@tampepe.com

Photos by Juan Capulca



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Stoned, but not totally insane

WHEN A 35-YEAR-OLD DJ INVITES an aging 66-year-old crooner to dabble into dance music, some naysayers might regard this musical experi-

ment as a recipe for disaster.

But Nick Bracegirdle, the brainchild behind powerhouse dance outfit Chicane, is no fool. And a Grammy-winning musical giant by the

name of Sir Tom Jones (whose mighty repertoire stretches from the 1965 smash, "It's Not Unusual," to the chart-topping "Sex Bomb" in 1999) wasn't knighted by the Queen for nothing.

After taking some time off to write and regroup, Chicane—who last made headlines with the hit single "Love on the Run"—returns to reclaim his coveted place in the august halls of chivalry. That is, with the help of the legendary, charismatic crooner.

Over the past year, the two heavyweights have teamed up to produce a devastatingly contagious dance track, "Stoned in Love feat. Tom Jones," which fuses Jones' vintage vocals with Bracegirdle's smoothly-produced form of electronica. Since its worldwide release last April 24, the single has been steadily climbing the global club charts; resting, as of late, at the sweet No. 7 spot.

On Saturday, May 27, Chicane commandeers the decks of the World Trade Center to perform the killer track for his die-hard Filipino fans. Though Sir Tom won't be around to belt out the single's lung-busting chorus, you can count on Bracegirdle to pull out all the stops for another scintillating live show. For tickets, call 723-8673 or 726-2523.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

May 20, Saturday

Sugar Free, Twisted Halo, Cambio, and Happy Meals at Sagujo; 20something Saturdays at Mezze; Hale at Centerstage, SM Megamall Cinema 9; Cynthia Alexander at Conspiracy; Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; Quench w/ DJs Chip dela Calzada & Mac Cunanan at Quisine; Dance Deluxe w/ DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campustion Night at MagNet Café; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Bam del Valle at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Wiseguys at Suburbia Malate

May 21, Sunday

Rivermaya at Expo Filipino; Ingrid Santamaria & the Adventist Chamber



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario



CHICANE live in Manila soon

May 22, Monday

Bridge at 70s Bistro; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays w/ DJ Ro at Gweiilos Makati, Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Dawn & Jessie at Merk's; Wine Buffet at The Lounge; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Folies de Mwah at Club Mwah

May 23, Tuesday

Jammin' Reggae w/ Brownman Revival at Conspiracy; Wahijura at 70s Bistro; Severo, The Late Isabel, and Jeepney Joy Ride at Sagujo; Panic w/ DJs Alessandra Timo & Chi Casetaeda, The Sleepyheads, Irie-J, Day One Movement, & Dead Pop Stars at Zen; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; The Bloomfields at Dish, Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

May 24, Wednesday

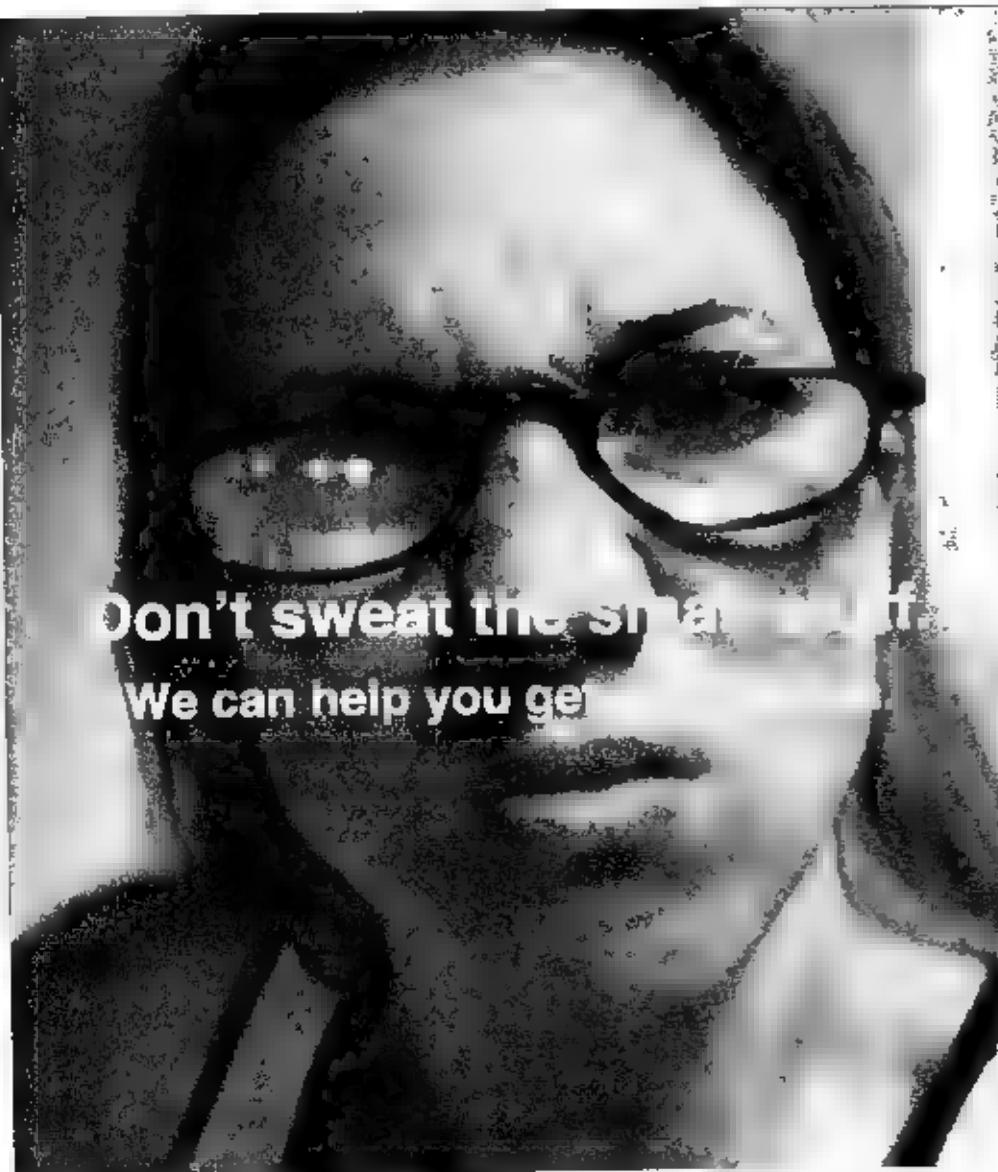
Up Dharma Down at 70s Bistro; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine, Funksonjah at Manila DJ Club; Mayonnaise at Sagujo; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnnyverse at Embassy Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gweiilos Makati, DJ Crash at Temple; Classic Wednesdays w/ DJ Brit at Government; Acoustic Night at 6 Underground; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Night at MagNet Café Katipunan; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Julia Duncan at Merk's; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy; Wiseguys at Bagaberde Pasig

May 25, Thursday

Nemanja Radulovic Concert at Philamlife Theater; Brownman Revival at 70s Bistro; LYC Gimme Shelter A Benefit Show for Street Children at Conspiracy; BBC's HotButteredSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab, GottaHaveHouse w/ DJs Mark Jentes & Wendell Garcia at Capone's; SPiT at MagNet; Café Katipunan, Fluxx: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Latino Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed, DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Acoustic Jive at Merk's

May 26, Friday

Sagujo's 2nd Year Anniversary Part 1 feat Ciudad, Pediacab, Chicosci, Soapdish, Blast Opie, Boldstar, Sleepyheads, Monkey Spank, The Butter Pill, If Disco Is A Crime, Itchy Worms, Sugar Free, Imago, and Anugui at Sagujo; Mojofly at Dish. We're Still Hot! The New Menopause Musical at Teatrido Promenade, Greenhills, Joey Ayala at Conspiracy, Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; DJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze; Fashion Fridays w/ DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus, DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati, MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine, DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed, DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Wiseguys at Virgin Café



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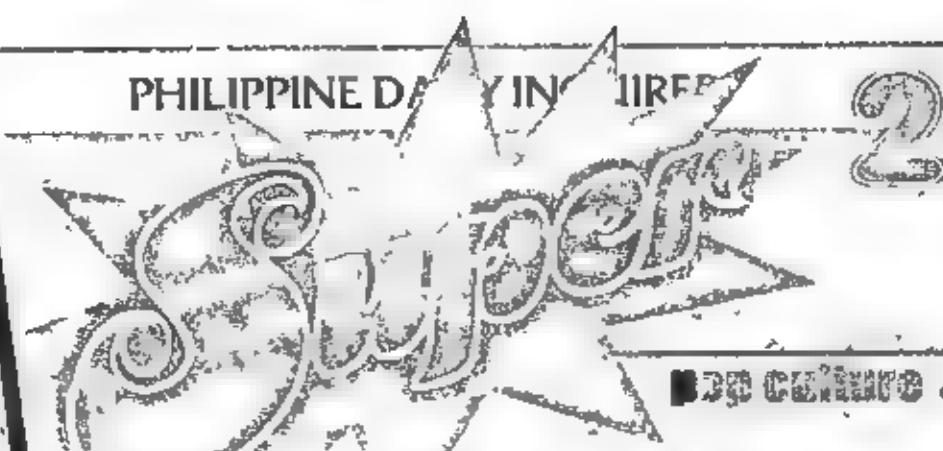
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THE NEW MISS. Bianca Valente being crowned Miss Mouton Cadet by last year's winner, Maric Dimayuga.



Pop culture • Entertainment • Creation

Cannes: Is your dig this?



TRILLO TRIO. Tita, Angela and Annie Trillo know their wine well.

Tim Yap

LAST WEDNESDAY WAS the world premiere of "Da Vinci Code" at the opening of the most prestigious cinematographic festival in the world, the Cannes Film Festival. As of this writing, Audrey Tautou, Zhang Ziyi, Eva Herzigova, Andie MacDowell and more movie stars would have sashayed down the red carpet, flaunting their Chopard jewelry and Chanel gowns. Now, week, a Filipino joins these celebrities as she makes down the red carpet, rubbing elbows with the rich, the famous and the beautiful. Last year, Claudine Barretto and Claudine Trillo-Webb proudly paraded our country's colors in Roja Lateral. Whose turn is it this year?

"I am a single mom, and people told me that my life would end as soon as I got pregnant. My life did end, but it became the start of a new one," mother No. 12 proudly declared as the audience roared with applause at the outspoken but confident lass in front of them.

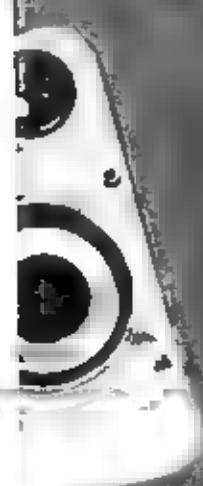
CANNES/D2

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HOTEL DE LUXE Four Juniors of Schwarzwald with Tita Trillo

FRESH PRINCE of Jaipur Miss Romeo

A FORMER Miss Mouton Cadet herself, Jenny Santi

MAN OF DISTINCTION. Gigi Medina

LIFESTYLE setter Juana Manahan and French Ambassador Gerard Cheneau

WATCH out for their new Pinoy restaurant Chef Roland Laudice with wife Jackie

ILLUSTRADOS. Thierry de Tourniel and Boni Pimentel

NEGA ROYALTY. Lorraine Belmonte and Billy King discuss their choices

THEY WILL WALK THE RED CARPET FOR THE CANNES FILMFEST. Miss Mouton Cadet winner Bianca Valero

SUPER! SELECTION**These screens are made for jumping off of**

THE SM MALL OF ASIA OPENS ON THE 21st, and man, is it huge. It is actually the largest mall in Asia. Just a random tidbit. The mall houses one of the largest movie screens in the world. Another random tidbit.

Anyway, as the mall opens tomorrow, so will the Philippines' first IMAX theater—and I tell you all, it is a different experience. Imagine eight stories of the silver screen. It can be scary. I mean, what if Judy starts making IMAX movies? Or Al Ai de las Alas? But I'm off track.

Imagine a 12,000 watt, multi-channel, digital surround sound system? Or imagine 3D movies?

Or wait. You won't have to imagine long. Aside from it opening tomorrow, prices are going to be affordable. ₱150 for documen-

taries," we're told. The reason for this is a partnership between SM, San Miguel and Coca-Cola.

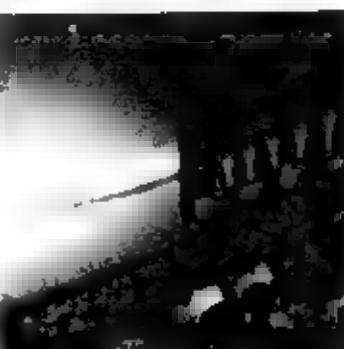
I, and over 500 other people were ushered into the 586-seater theater on Tuesday. We were shown two IMAX-size movies (IMAX has film ten times bigger than the conventional 33mm). One was a 3D movie called "Nascar 3D," for which we had to wear the special polarized glasses they handed out. The other was a 2D movie called, "Everest," which was especially meaningful 'cause we had the women's Everest team with us, and because the first Filipino made it on Everest just two days after.

Both films will premiere when the theater opens tomorrow.

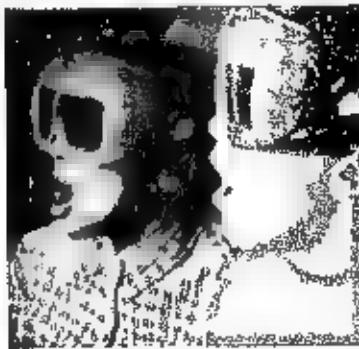
IMAX is the movie experience. You haven't seen it, and, in the future maybe, bungee off it. **Pepe Diokno**



A FACE of that whole building is the size of the IMAX screen. **PEPE DIOKNO**



NO MATTER where you sit in this theater, sound is good. Thank you 12,000 watt digital surround sound.



OBVIOUSLY, the kids are having fun. But that's until the scene where the giant 3D Trex comes up and eats them.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006



AND 400 MORE DAYS TO GO
before it drops in theaters,
the live-action *Transformers*
movie is already giving fans
serious geek gams.

SUPER! SELECTION

OPTIMUS PRIME TIME!

FOR THOSE BORN IN THE '80S, the last thing you'd expect is to see a movie about the Transformers. But that's exactly what happened on May 4, 2007, when the more than a year-long build-up to the world's live-action *Transformers* film arrived in theaters. In addition to the movie itself, there will be a host of other products, from action figures to posters, books, and even a game.

While the movie is the main attraction, there are plenty of other things to look forward to. From the first trailer to the final cut, the movie has been a hit with critics and audiences alike. And with so much buzz surrounding the film, it's no surprise that it's become one of the most anticipated movies of the year. So if you're looking for something to do this weekend, make sure to catch the new *Transformers* movie. You won't be disappointed!

Directed by Michael Bay, the movie follows the Autobots as they try to protect Earth from the Decepticons. It's a fast-paced, action-packed movie that promises to be fun for the whole family. So if you're looking for something to do this weekend, make sure to catch the new *Transformers* movie. You won't be disappointed!

With a budget of over \$100 million, the movie is set to be a major blockbuster. And with its impressive cast, including Tom Cruise, Ewan McGregor, and Christian Bale, it's sure to be a hit. So if you're looking for something to do this weekend, make sure to catch the new *Transformers* movie. You won't be disappointed!

And if you're not able to see the movie in theaters, don't worry. There are plenty of ways to get involved with the *Transformers* franchise. From the official website to the various social media platforms, there's always something happening. So if you're a fan of the movie, make sure to stay connected and keep up with all the latest news and updates.

So if you're looking for something to do this weekend, make sure to catch the new *Transformers* movie. You won't be disappointed!

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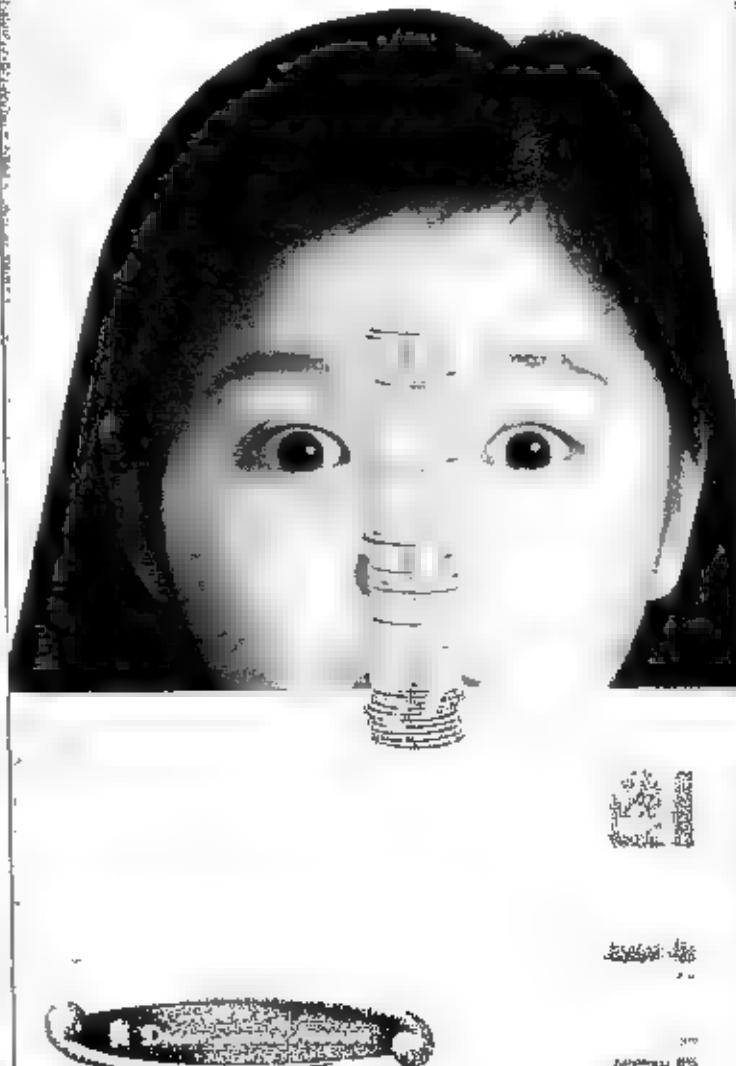
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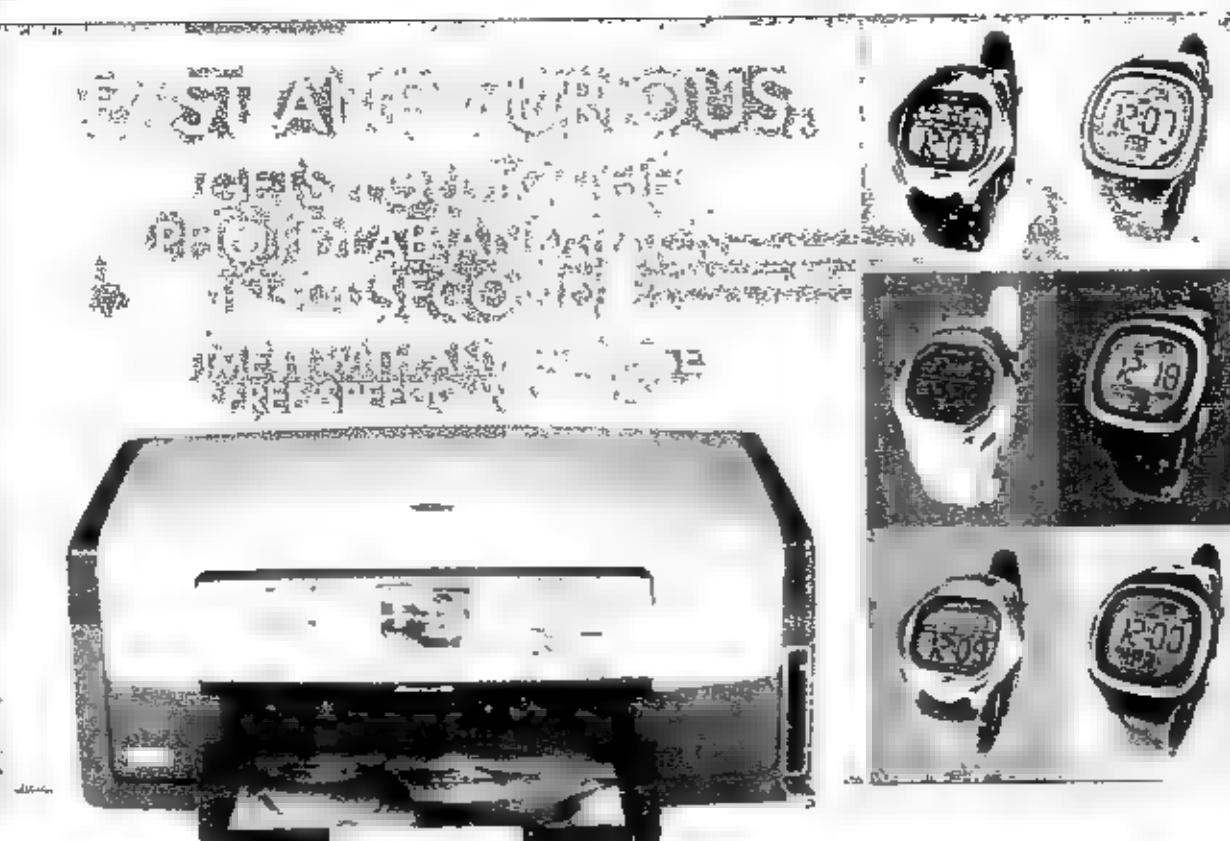
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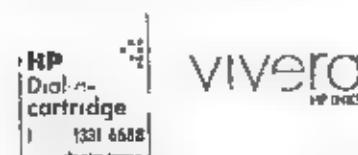
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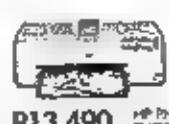


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Hip-hop till you can't stop

By David Milan

Music industry may seem to lack proper hip-hop representation. But, like everything done underground, a flurry of independent hip-hop artists have been building and establishing their marks both locally and abroad. One of the camps making grooves is Turbulence Productions, a local independent label and winner of this year's Independent Artist of the Year for the 2nd Annual Hip-Hop Awards. Headmastered by producer and founder, Bong "B-Roc" Andres, along with BeatBox MC, Psyent and rapper/lyricist Nimbus Nine, Turbulence recently headlined a show in Taiwan alongside Lox, of Diddy's



SUSHI RAP. Nimbus Nine and Jin the MC

(that's Puff Daddy if you were born twenty years ago) Bad Boy records and hip-hop superstar, Jay-Z.

"May pag-asa tayong mga Pilipino! Who would have ever thought that young artists like us would be rocking concerts out of the country and headlining with known international acts?" said Nimbus Nine. "It's been such a blessing and it gives us, as Filipino artists, a ray of hope that we're more than capable of competing internationally and booking our own gigs without any major label's help. Kung kaya natin, kaya nyo rin." These hip-hop heads have no plans of stopping. Turbulence Productions came up with a seven-week long hip-hop event called "The Community," which is a weekly event, every Wednesday at Club Hula, Mile Long



PINOY BAD BOYS. Nimbus Nine with P. Diddy posse Loon

compound, Amorsolo St., Makati City.

The event began last April 19 and will end on May 31. "The Community" will also spawn a DVD and CD, with the participation of local greats such as Francis M, Master Plan, Armstrong, Mike Smith, Biwon and more.

For more information log on to www.turbulenceproductions.net



STONE PAPER AND SCISSORS. B-Roc and Marvelous

EXPLORE WHAT'S SENSATIONAL ABOUT SUMMER

STARBUCKS® Introduces Indulgent New Beverages: Tropical Banana Mocha Frappuccino®, Banana Caramel Frappuccino® & Banana Cream Frappuccino®

Just like summer, a cool and delicious beverage is something that should be savored. This summer, while it might be difficult to sip these delicious new beverages slowly, Starbucks® invites you to discover three new, deliciously refreshing summer Frappuccino® Blended Beverages with a truly tropical twist: Banana Mocha Frappuccino® Blended Coffee, Banana Caramel Frappuccino® Blended Coffee and Banana Cream Frappuccino® Blended Cream.

For many, Starbucks® is a perfect place to escape the summertime heat, and Starbucks® has introduced new beverages that are sure to become summer favorites. "The tropical taste of our new Banana Frappuccino® Blended Beverages make a hot & humid summer day that much more delightful."



Banana Mocha Frappuccino® Blended Coffee is a tropical, soda fountain-inspired treat that blends rich cocoa and real banana puree with coffee, milk and ice and is topped with whipped cream and brûlée sprinkles.



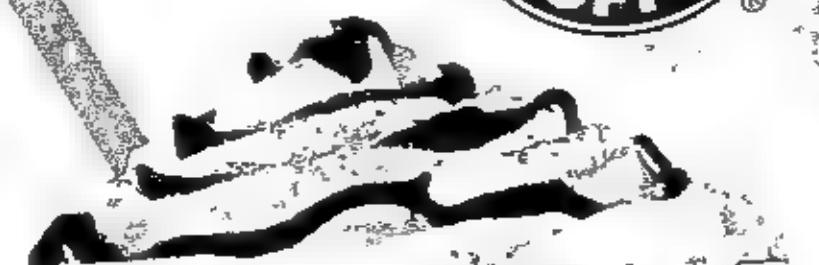
For the sweet tooth, Banana Caramel Frappuccino® Blended Coffee is a cool treat featuring coffee, milk and ice made more exciting with the flavors of buttery caramel and real banana puree.



Finally, for those looking for an icy treat sans coffee, there's the Banana Cream Frappuccino® Blended Cream which combines the taste of fresh banana puree, milk and cream with crunchy brûlée sprinkles.

All of these handcrafted beverages promise to provide an indulgent escape from the expected.

A cool blend of Starbucks® coffee, milk and ice, Frappuccino® Blended Beverage is a handcrafted beverage introduced in 1995 by a group of Starbucks® baristas in California. The original Frappuccino® flavors - coffee and mocha - have been joined over the years by Caramel Frappuccino® and Rhumba Frappuccino® and, now, for a limited time, Banana Mocha Frappuccino® Blended Coffee, Banana Caramel Frappuccino® Blended Coffee and Banana Cream Frappuccino® Blended Cream.



*ALSO AVAILABLE IN
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pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Temple of Boom!

Aspiring mixmasters can now turn their beat-driven dreams into sonic reality at Manila's only DJ school, Spin City

AT 13, I WAS AT THE ground floor of my beat-driven dreams, moonlighting as the default DJ for my own birthday party. Of course, all that meant was fading Nirvana in (and fading C+C Music Factory out) using a beat-up DiscMan and a Kenwood stereo. But still, despite the woefully DIY conditions, I managed not to make everything sound like ear-splitting sludge.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

A decade or so later, I'm finally moving up as far as those twin aspirations were concerned. In the 5th floor of a blink-and-you'll-miss-it building, I stumbled upon a place where bedroom DJs can become official turntablists: Spin City.

Sonic boom

Like "Dexter's Laboratory" crossed with "Groove" crossed with "School of Rock," Spin City started out as a class project for mastermind Jessie Suaco. As a freshman at the Center for International Education (CIE), he needed to think of a business that was linked to a personal passion. In Jessie's case, it was definitely music. More specifically, mixing it.

"CIE is where college kids can learn in a non-traditional environment, where academic rigor is defined as starting and growing your own enterprise," explains CIE director Lex Ledesma. "At the beginning, Jessie used our RCBC Plaza campus as his school at night. But because he has been doing well, he was able to get his own place."

Hogwarts for vinyl junkies

But just like blending beats, running a DJ school is "tricker than it seems," according to Jessie. This Hogwarts for vinyl junkies follows a detailed curriculum, something veteran DJ and Spin City instructor Mon Maramba came up with more than 10 years ago. "Another DJ and I thought of a step ladder process where the students build up the basic skills. The fundamentals are emphasized as these are the habits they'll be using all throughout their DJing careers."

Unlike, say, your run-of-the-mill university philosophy lectures, classes at Spin City are primarily designed not to pummel students with too much information. And the instruction is one-on-one. "The speed of progress is always adjusted to the rate of absorption and the students only move on to the next lesson if they have met certain requirements," continues Mon.

"For the basic course, students can pass if they can perform a simple 1-hour program using all the skills they learned while displaying some degree of creativity. It's a recital of sorts that we hold at the school itself. But soon we plan to hold this in public venues as the crowds have been increasing."

On the decks

After DJ History 101, Mon went on to

TEMPEL/E4

TREBLE MAKER.
Mon Maramba
came up with the
step-by-step
curriculum.

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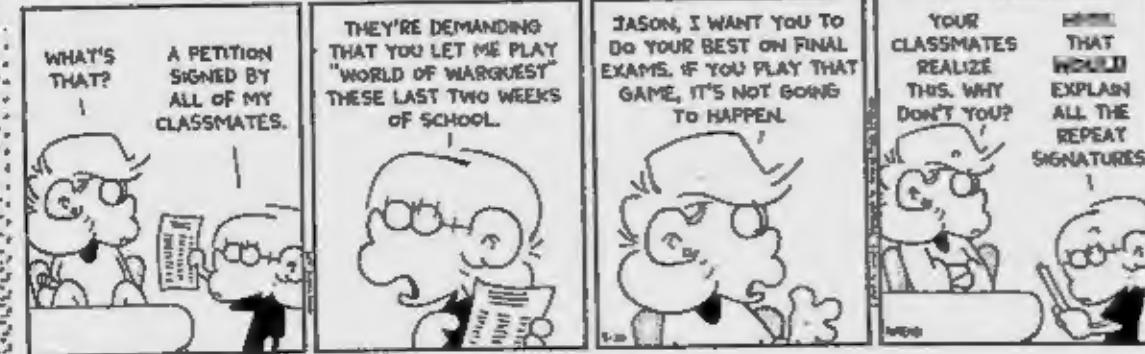
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E2

Amarillo Star-News

FOXTROT



BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN



BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY PM. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



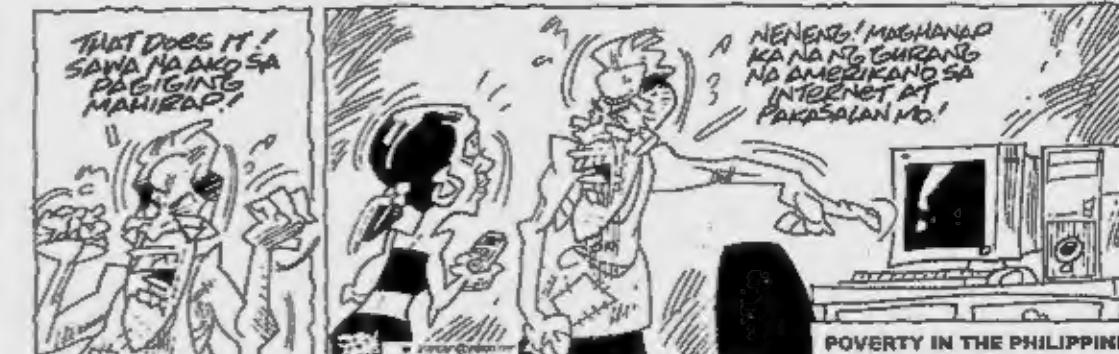
ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're intelligent, articulate and very skillful at expressing yourself. You have an investigative mind. You love to learn new things and travel to new places. Your enthusiasm keeps you forever young. You want constant stimulation. (No boredom, please!) The year ahead is unusually social and promises new love for many of you.

Birthday of: Honore de Balzac, writer; Cher, actress/singer; Dave Thomas, comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You definitely have an opportunity to help a friend today. Perhaps all this person needs is a sympathetic ear, or a shoulder to cry on. (Help if you can.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Artistic friends inspire you now. Perhaps they believe in your efforts. Perhaps what they do shows you what you really are capable of. This helps you believe in yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Visit a park. Take a drive in the country. Go to beautiful stores, museums or galleries.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel selfless today. You're prepared to put your needs second to the needs of someone who is suffering. You really want to do something to help someone else. (How noble.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Some of you might fall in love with your boss today. You have to look in the mirror and ask yourself if this is wise or really stupid. It's very dicey ground. Don't do anything you'll regret later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Other people are willing to help you or give you things today. Keep your pockets open! Don't worry about strings attached. The universe wants to be generous to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conversations with friends, partners and even members of the general public are friendly and mutually sympathetic today. It's a lovely day to enjoy the company of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): People are cooperative at work today. Co-workers are pleasant. You might also get some good ideas about how to improve your health.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Romance, flirtations and exciting, entertaining diversions make your heart beat a little faster today. Some people will meet their true love today. (Ooh la la.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a wonderful day to redecorate where you live or do something to make your home more attractive. You might want to buy art or something beautiful for yourself or a family member.

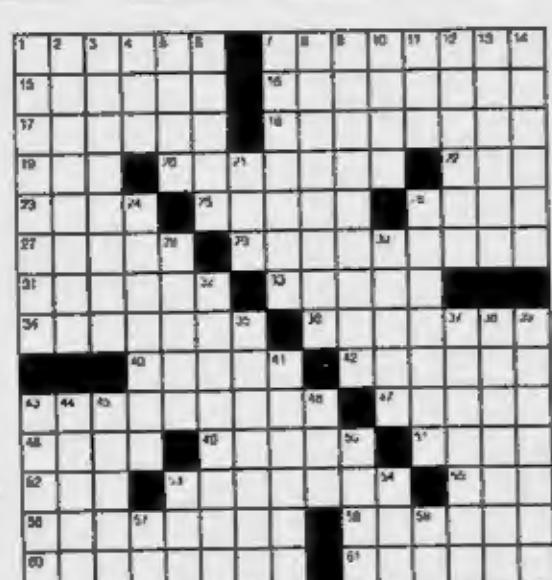
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Contracts and negotiations go very well today. This is also a good day to form partnerships with others. People are reasonable and willing to listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Trust your hunches about new ways to earn money. You can boost your earnings today. Similarly, you might spend money on beautiful things. It sounds like easy come, easy go!

DAILY CROSSWORD

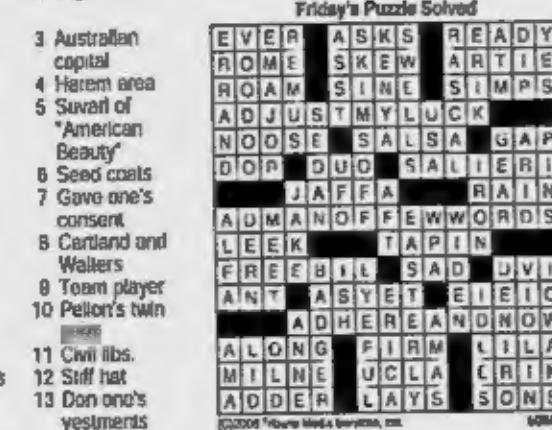
ACROSS

- Washington port.
- Soaked up
- Library patron
- Final stroke
- Verdi opera
- Telephone pole adjunct
- Cry out loud
- Formula math
- You to Yes
- Begged
- Begin's peace partner
- Financial hole
- 27 Buenos — Arg.
- Sweats
- Actress Meryl
- Film featuring "I Only Have Eyes for You"
- Improve to meet a standard
- Putting a band around
- Best and Ferber
- Horse goddesses of destiny
- Group of business people
- Fe, NM
- Beer picks
- Fundamental principle
- Trait mix
- "Le coq — Rimsakoff opera
- Upright mornies
- Soak up rays
- Well-read
- Diminutive size
- Lifts
- Canine coverage
- Painful feeling
- Fast-lane melody
- Infringement
- Siliceous meteorite



By Tom Price Chicago, IL

Friday's Puzzle Solved



3 Australian capital
4 Sun of "American Beauty"
5 Seed coals
7 Gave one's consent
8 Cardigan and Walkers
10 Team player
10 Pelton's twin

11 Civil lib.
12 Stiff hat
13 Don ono's vestments
14 Rollingstones
21 Empty specie
24 Becomes more profound
26 Washcloth
28 Plant starters
30 Mexican moles
32 Interrupt periodically
35 Artist's range of colors
37 Very fast

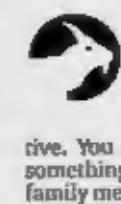
38 Fertilizers
39 Small anchors
41 Completely cloudy
43 Long-handled servers
44 Philippines port
46 Olympic discus legend
48 Arthur of "Maude"
50 Does date entry
53 Mediterranean port
54 E-mailed
57 Night before
59 Black goo



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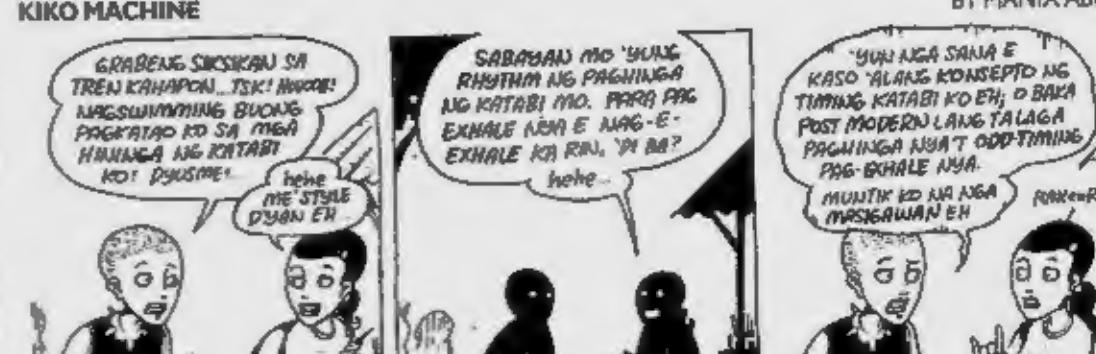
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BEN



BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE



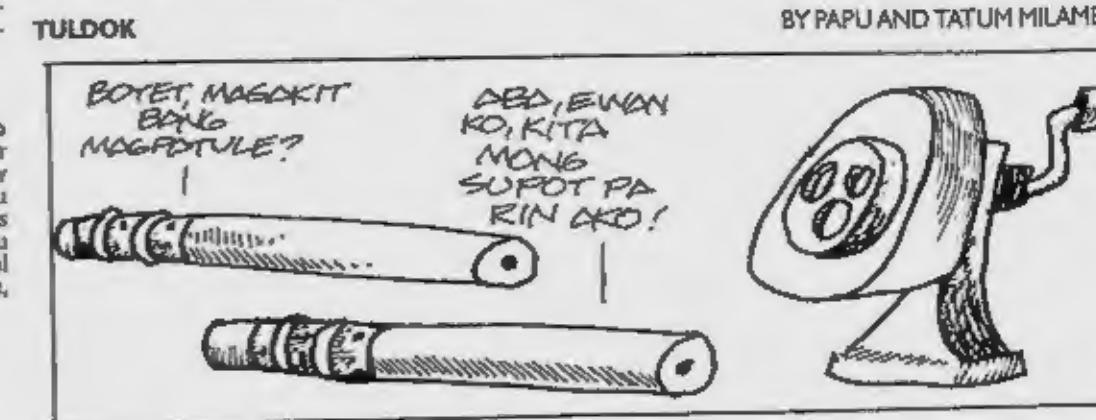
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK



BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



MOSSIMO BIKINI GRAND PRIX 2006

Body language on high speed

MAY 24 IS A DAY FOR SPEED, sports cars and sexy bodies. Mossimo and Asian Formula (F3) partnered to bring a special event at the NBC Tent called "Mossimo Bikini Grand Prix." The extra dose of hot biker and cool cars will undoubtedly inject the fifth Mossimo Bikini Summit with more energy and excitement.

And the energy and excitement have been building up for weeks now. The final contestants were chosen from over 500 applicants between the

ages of 18 and 25 and the contest has been keeping them busy. Press presentation at Discovery Suites last May 4, the Mossimo @ AF3 Race last May 7 and the packed days at Boracay from May 10 to 13.

But the biggest night is yet to come. On Wednesday, the twenty candidates will feed the audience's need for speed as they try to bag the prizes.

Fasten' your seatbelts and brace yourselves for a high-speed night with Mossimo.

Albert Pill

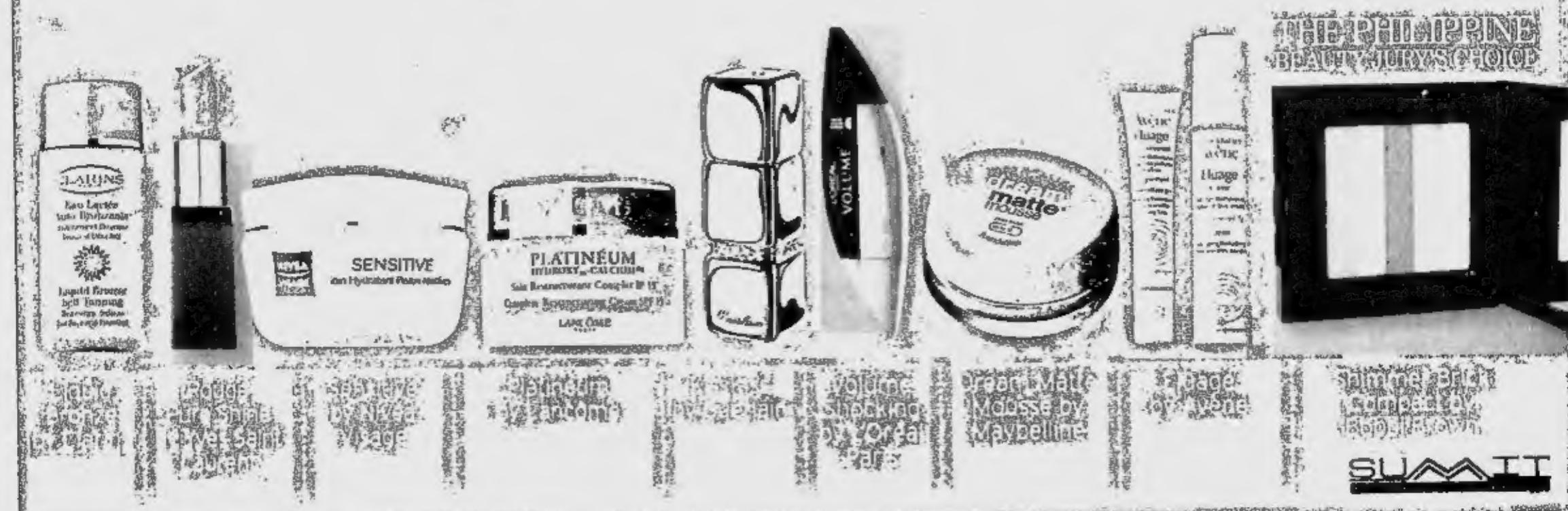


The 2006 Winners of the Marie Claire Prix d'Excellence de la Beauté

The Prix d'Excellence de la Beauté is a award given every year to the best beauty products worldwide. Read Marie Claire's choice in this May issue. Honored by international beauty experts who select the best in the business.



BEAUTIFUL SMART GREAT





SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006



TALENTED TURNTABLST. DJ
Jessie Suaco brings on the bpm's

Temple of Boom!

From page E1

dissect the different parts of the vinyl turntable and CD mixer. It all felt like driving a car for the first time—kinda intimidating and a bit scary—especially with all the buttons and knobs I had to learn to control and stuff. But when I realized that, unlike driving a car for the first time, I wouldn't ram into a bus or fall into a ravine if or when I failed to properly cue a CD, my confidence came back scandalously fast. Music, please!

Following that speedy tutorial, we moved on to Lesson #2: "Learning to Layer a Track on Top of Itself," or some-



thing like that. By this time, Mon and I had moved to the vinyl turntables (See, if you know how to mix vinyl, mixing CDs is a cinch. The reverse doesn't hold, though.)

Taking my love of technology too far, I grinned like an idiot when I found out that you could now mix MP3s in a DJ setup. Using Final Scratch-Traktor software, Spin City's PC mapped out my MP3s, turning them from mere megabytes into actual tracks I can manipulate through blank vinyl records. I guess that takes care of "the feel," something most old-school DJs say is missing when one handles CDs.

With that done, all I had to do next was to pick my guinea pig tracks. "Because the beats are very regular, deep-house and beach house are the easiest to mix," Jessie advises. "Trance is trickier, while hiphop involves a lot of scratching."

Bang that (ear)drum

But since I wanted a respite from the kind of music every DJ seems to play (i.e., house and/or hiphop), I said I eventually wanted to mix rock, which apparently takes a lot more skill. In the end I practiced with a little alt-country (Pete Yorn's "Strange Condition"), then some electro-punk ("Scissor Sisters' "Comfortably Numb"), and finally—okay, I give—mainstream hiphop (Kanye West's "Touch The Sky"). Not bad, really.

We're all used to listening in stereo so it was a bit odd to hear things in mono: "When you mix, you need to listen to what's coming out of the speakers with one ear while listening to what's spinning on the turntable with the other at the same time," Mon reminds me. Tough, but again, I sailed through that, too.

The next lesson, though, was where most DJ students get stuck—pitch control. If you think everything so far was challenging enough, wait till two different tracks get tossed your way and it's your duty to figure out which has a faster or slower bpm (beats per minute).

With the CD mixer, it's a bit more forgiving. But on vinyl, you have to speed up or slow down the record manually (not to mention gracefully), adjusting the slide pitch to correspond with the slightest change in speed. When done right, the transition between songs is seamless and barely detectable. When it's off, however, the disjointed beats can bang up your eardrums worse than, er, William Hung. Remember him?

Prime cuts

Anyway, I'm all set for the rest of the course—analyzing song structures, creating a playlist, and finally building up for a recital. It sounds like an epic ending for something that started out as a teenage hobby, but yeah, I'm more serious than not about wreaking havoc on the decks gangsta-jungle style. It seems my fellow Spin City apprentices, ranging from a 12-year-old girl to corporate types in their 40's, are just as amped.

Likewise, the peeps behind the DJ academy have awesome plans for the future. "We're working on offering other DJing skills like scratching (or turntablism) and 'digitalism' (laptop or computer-based DJing) for the near term. Then, further on, music production and sound engineering," Mon discloses. "In the long run, it would be nice to see Spin City offer other music courses but not necessarily in the traditional mold of classical music colleges... becoming sort of a school for street music. Guitar lessons from your favorite rock star, anyone?"

So someday, when you go to a suitably trendy dive and hear a DJ spinning spacerock bonfire anthems (from, say, The Arctic Monkeys), along with breakbeat and electro, you can bet your white label remix it's me. By then, I should already be a bona fide beatmaster, applying everything I learned at Spin City.

For inquiries about the 8-session CD mixing course (P6500) and vinyl mixing course (P8500), check out Spin City at the 5th Floor, Abba Building, Kalayaan Ave., Makati City (going to The Fort). E-mail them at hangthendj1@yahoo.com. Contact Jessie Suaco at 0917 8570987.

For enrollment details, contact the Center for International Education (CIE) at the 28th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Buendia Ave., Makati City. Tel. (632) 887-2828 and (632) 753-2828. Website: www.ciemakati.edu.ph.



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4539 2222 2222 9000	Last 5-digits	P10,000	G	H	I	3	I	O	0
4539 3333 3333 9000	Last 4-digits	P1,000	J	K	L	4	N	W	9
4539 7777 7777 7000	Last 3-digits	P100	M	N	O	5	S	Z	0

Example: If the approval code on your sales slip is 889000, text is 789000.

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